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THE  
HISTORY  
OF

*Jemmy and Fenny Jessamy.*

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VOL. III.

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CHAP. I.

*Shews the character of Jemmy in a light which will be thought worthy approbation by some readers, and equally ridiculed by others.*

HOW much soever Jemmy was taken up on going to bed, with the thoughts of when and where he should meet his mistress, according to her desire, he did not forget next morning an appointment he had made to breakfast with a gentleman, in order to look over some curiosities that had been brought from Rome at the last jubilee.

In his way thither, as he was passing by the door of a great Mercer, he was surpris'd with the sight of lady Hardy starting out upon him, and before he had time to speak, or indeed to think whether he ought to do so in that place or not, 'Well mr. Jessamy, cried she in a low voice, what answer may I expect to the letter I sent last night?' — 'Such a one, madam, reply'd he, as I hope will give you no future cause to reproach me.'

'I should be glad,' said she, and was going on; but something, which will hereafter be discover'd, prevented

her, and she ran back into the shop in the greatest hurry and confusion: *Jemmy* imagined that the sight of some person who knew her had given her this alarm; but as it was improper to follow her, and he did not chuse to saunter about the street in hope of speaking to her again, he went directly to the place where he was expected.

He staid no longer at this visit than mere civility required; — the task enjoin'd him by lady *Hardy* ran very much in his head, and he could not be easy till he had found some means or other of performing it.

He was returning home so deeply buried in cogitation, that though he went through the park, which at that time was very full of company, he saw nor took notice of any body in it, till *Belpine* meeting him in this unusual musing accosted him with a slap on the shoulder, accompany'd by these lines borrow'd from *Farquhar's Recruiting-Officer*:

Spleen, thou worst of fiends below,

Fly, I conjure thee, by this magic blow.

'What, in the name of wonder, pursued he, has wrought this transformation? — What fair cruel she has the power to engross you to herself, and make you absent amidst a throng of beauties.'

The sight of him, together with the salutation he had given him, put *Jemmy* in mind of something he had never thought on before: — 'Faith, *Belpine*, answer'd he laughing, your guess is partly right; — I was thinking of a lady, though no cruel one, and just wishing for such a friend as you.'

'Then here I am apropos, cried the other; — What act of friendship am I to be employ'd in?' — 'Come home with me, and I will tell you, reply'd *Jemmy*.' — 'With all my heart, said *Belpine*, I will only speak to a couple of gentlemen I see yonder, and be after you in a moment.'

*Jemmy* was now astonish'd at his own stupidity; so anxious as he had been to find a proper place for the consummation of his amour with lady *Hardy*, yet he had never once thought of having recourse to *Belpine* for that purpose, who was a single man, had handsome lodgings, and look'd upon by him as sufficiently his friend to oblige him in a much greater matter than the use of his apartment for a few hours.

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He walked slowly on, and the other overtook him before he reach'd his own door; — as soon as they were come into the house and shut up together, *Jemmy* told him, that having a small affair of gallantry with a woman of condition, who would not venture to any house of public resort, the favour he requested of him was to lend him his lodgings to entertain her in.

To this the other reply'd, that he was glad of the opportunity of contributing to his pleasures; — ‘but, said he, we must be very cautious, — my landlady, you must know, is a formal piece of stuff, and piques herself mightily on the reputation and honesty of her house; — I will therefore sneak privately out before you come, that she may not know I am abroad, and when my man has shew'd you and your fair companion up stairs, he shall tell the old cant that you are relations of mine come to visit me.’

*Belpine* looked extremely thoughtful all the time he was speaking, which *Jemmy* interpreting as the effect of his great zeal and care that every thing should be conducted to his satisfaction, heartily embraced and thank'd him for.

The other grew every moment more serious; but asked him on what day and at what hour he intended to bring his mistress. — ‘That must depend upon herself, said *Jemmy*, and what opportunity chance and our good fortune may befriend us with; — but I shall take care to give you timely notice.’

‘I suppose, resumed *Belpine*, as this affair is to be a mighty secret, I must not be trusted with the name of this fine lady.’ — ‘No, friend, reply'd *Jemmy*, you must excuse me there; — she is a person of fashion, and a married woman.’ — ‘Aye, return'd *Belpine*, in a voice scarce articulate, through his inward agitations, and you might have added too, — a lewd, — a base, and a most ungrateful woman.’

‘What do you mean, sir? demanded *Jemmy* somewhat startled at his looks and manner of speaking. — Before I answer you, cry'd *Belpine*, tell me, I conjure you, by all our friendship, — tell me truly, whether you have yet enjoy'd her?’ — ‘No, upon my honour, reply'd the other still more surprized; — but wherefore do you ask? — she is perhaps your mistress.’

‘ Would to Heaven, said Belpine, that she were mine,  
 ‘ —or yours,—or any man’s mistress, so she were not  
 ‘ my uncle’s wife, and dignify’d with the name of lady  
 ‘ Hardy.’

Never was any one in a greater consternation than Jemmy was on hearing this—he had been told, indeed, somewhat concerning his having an uncle who had marry’d a girl of mean extraction, but knew nothing of his name nor of the particulars of the story. — ‘ What, cry’d he hastily, is sir Thomas Hardy your uncle?’

‘ Yes, reply’d the other sullenly, he is my mother’s brother, and I was always look’d upon as his undoubted heir, but by his marriage with this curst Jezebel I am like to be defrauded of an estate of upwards of two thousand pounds a year.’

Jemmy having by this time a little recovered himself from his surprize, was very much affected with these last words; — ‘ You shall not be a loser by any act of mine,’ said he; if lady Hardy were more handsome than she is, and I loved her more than I ever did, be assured I would henceforth for ever shun her presence, and forego the gratification of my desires, rather than be guilty of attempting any thing which might happen to prove an injury to my friend.’

‘ This is generous, indeed, cry’d Belpine embracing him, and what I could have expected from no man but yourself:—you will pardon, dear sir, continued he, the warmth of some expressions I may have let fall;—but I cannot keep my temper in due bounds whenever I think on my uncle’s dotage, and the misfortunes I may possibly be reduced to by it.’

After many repeated assurances on the one side, and retentions on the other, Jemmy bethought himself of asking him how it came into his head to guess that lady Hardy, of all womankind, was the mistress he had spoke of, and intended to have brought to his lodgings.

‘ It can be call’d, indeed, no more than a conjecture,’ reply’d Belpine, yet was it such a conjecture as amounted almost to a certainty; you know, pursued he, that you spoke to her this morning at the door of a shop in Chandos-street;—I was sitting in a parlour window just opposite to it, and had the opportunity of beholding  
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‘with what hurry of looks and motion her impudent ladyship flew out to meet you; and how presently after conscious guilt and fear at sight of me, on turning her head that way, made her leave you, and retire with as much precipitation as she had come out.

‘This, went he still on, was enough to give a strange suspicion of your intimacy, and I thought to have asked you by what means you came to be so well acquainted with one of our family; but you prevented me by making a request which confirmed me in what I had so much reason to believe before; and also that you were entirely ignorant of the near relationship between me and that vile woman.’

‘You do me justice, said Jemmy; nothing could be farther from my thoughts than that she was your aunt; — I knew her before she had any expectations of being so, and when she was much more innocent than I fear she is at present.’

He then, on the desire of the other, related the manner of his first acquaintance with Celia of the woods, and the many accidents which had intervened and hinder’d the completion of what at that time he so ardently had desired, and she seem’d not very averse to grant.

On his having finish’d this recital; — ‘When I consider, said Belpine, what you are, and what she was at the time of her acquaintance with you in the wood, I could almost pity her for not being able, even after marriage, to banish an idea so agreeable, and which had made the first impression on her heart; but, my dear friend, it is not for your sake alone that she has transgressed the rules of virtue, and even of decency; — others have proved the too great warmth of her constitution; some unquestionable instances of this have come to my knowledge; — be assured I speak not this out of malice, nor in regard of my uncle’s honour would mention it at all, if I did not think it might serve to fortify you in the resolution you have taken of never seeing her any more.’

A sort of a contemptuous smile spread itself all over Jemmy’s face at this supposition; — he assured Belpine that there was no occasion for any proofs of that lady’s

levity to enable him to keep the promise he had made; and that as he never was possess'd of any thing more than a transient inclination for her, he could throw it off without feeling the least pain.

‘ — Whatever anecdotes therefore, said he, you favour me with will only serve to gratify my curiosity.’

Belpine was, however, preparing to recollect the passages he had to relate; but their discourse had already taken up so much time, that before he could begin, a servant came into the room and told his master that dinner was upon the table.

‘ Well then, said Jemmy to his guest, you must do penance with me, — a batchelor’s table is always thinly served; but I indulged somewhat too plentifully last night, to mortify to day with a boil’d chicken and small beer.’

In speaking these words, he took Belpine by the hand and led him into another room, where it is not to be doubted but that they found more covers already placed than he had made mention of.

## CHAP. II.

*Contains, besides other matters, some farther particulars relating to lady Hardy, which she did not think proper to make any mention of to Jemmy in the detail she had given him of her adventures.*

DINNER was no sooner over, — all the appurtenances of it removed, and the servants withdrawn, than Belpine began the little narrative he had promised, in these or the like terms:

‘ It was always my custom, said he, even from my childhood, to go to Oxfordshire and pay my respects to my uncle three or four times every year; nor did I refrain continuing to give him this mark of my duty and affection after his marriage; though as you may suppose, it was an event which gave me great uneasiness.

‘ The first time I saw my new aunt I found her busily employ’d in learning French, music, and dancing; she seem’d, and I believe really was, no less desirous of becoming mistress of those accomplishments than her former

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“ husband was that she should be so, passing all those hours  
“ he suffer’d her from his presence either in reading some  
“ books which he had presented to her, or in the study  
“ of the lessons given her by her masters ; — her beha-  
“ viour was also full of humility and courtesy : — in a  
“ word, as much as I was prejudiced against her, which  
“ I confess I greatly was, I could see nothing in her to  
“ condemn during this visit, which lasted near three  
“ weeks, as unwilling that my uncle should think I took  
“ any umbrage at the change of his condition.

“ I went not down again till six months after, having  
“ been detain’d in London by a long fit of sickness,  
“ which it was thought would have been my last ; —  
“ but, — good God, how strange a transformation  
“ had happen’d in the family in that time ! — on my  
“ arrival — most of the old servants were removed, and  
“ new ones in their places ; — all my aunt’s preceptors  
“ were dismiss’d ; and her ladyship, instead of the tract-  
“ able obliging creature I had left her, was now grown  
“ haughty, fullen and reserved, scarce spoke but in her  
“ husband’s presence, and then with only an assumed  
“ softness : — in fine, every thing was the very reverse  
“ of what it had been, except my uncle himself, and  
“ he too, I thought, appeared less chearful and satisfied  
“ than usual.

“ But what the most amazed me was, to find that in  
“ the change of domesticks was included an old gentle-  
“ woman, who had lived with my uncle for seven or  
“ eight and twenty years in quality of a house-keeper,  
“ and being a distant relation of my father’s, and re-  
“ duced by misfortunes to go to service, had been re-  
“ commended by my mother to take care of his affairs ;  
“ which trust she so well discharged, and gave my uncle  
“ such content, that he used frequently to say, that as  
“ long as they both lived Jamison, for so she is call’d,  
“ and he should never part.

“ I took the liberty of asking my uncle what was be-  
“ come of her, but he only reply’d, that she was a  
“ foolish woman, — that he had discharged her, — and  
“ that he had done with her : — I rejoin’d, that I hoped  
“ she had been guilty of nothing to incur his displeasure.”

— ‘ I tell you, cried he, peevishly, she is a foolish im-  
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“pertinent woman, — say no more about her;” — “I obey’d, but could not keep myself from putting some questions concerning her removal to those of the servants who had lived there in her time, but could get no other answer from any of them than a shake of the head, or a shrug of the shoulder.

“All this increased my wonder; but on hearing she was at present boarded at a little farm-house about three or four miles off, I got one of my uncle’s horses and went thither one morning, under pretence of riding for the air.

“Notwithstanding the good creature received me with the greatest joy imaginable, I found the utmost difficulty in prevailing on her to acquaint me with the reason of her having left a place where she had been so useful as well as so much respected; and all I could get from her for a good while was, that sir Thomas had now no occasion for a house-keeper, having so good a lady, and such like evasive answers; which convincing me there was some mystery in the affair, made me the more solicitous for an explanation.

“I press’d, however, in such strong terms that she at last consented to satisfy me:” — “Your aunt is a base woman, said she, and deserves to be exposed; but as ill as sir Thomas has used me I should be sorry that he should be made the jest of the county, therefore would not mention what I am going to relate to any person in the world besides yourself, nor even to you if I did not know you would be obliged, for your own sake, to keep it secret.”

“After this, she asked me if I did not remember that the last time I was down there was a young French Hugonot who made part of the family, and had been agreed with by sir Thomas to teach her ladyship the language for two guineas a month and his board.

“I told her I knew very well there had been such a man, and she proceeded to inform me that this fellow presently grew a prodigious favourite with lady Hardy, — that she was always praising him, and was so extravagantly silly as even to ask the maids if they did not think monsieur La Noye was a very handsome man.”

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## JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 9

—‘ This, said mrs. Jamison, occasion’d whispers in the family, which were little to her ladyship’s advantage ; but for my part I really look’d upon her behaviour as the effect of simplicity, and not of guilt, as some of them imagined, till happening to go into the best chamber to see if every thing was in order, as I had made it be clean’d the day before, who did I see there but my lady and this La Noye upon the bed together ; — they had forgot, it seems, to fasten the door, and the posture I surprized them in admitted no doubt of their guilt ; I was so thunder-struck that I had not the power to go either forward or backward, but stood motionless as a stock ; — the fellow started up and rush’d by me out of the room, — my lady, you may be sure, was in confusion enough, — she ran to me, threw herself at my feet, burst into tears, and cry’d, “ Dear Jamison don’t betray me.” — Oh, madam, said I, I never thought to have seen what I have seen.’ — ‘ I was half asleep, rejoined she, when he came into the room, and I scarce knew what I did ; — therefore, dear mrs. Jamison do not ruin me, — do not tell sir Thomas ; — indeed I will never be guilty of the like again.’

“ I could not forbear interrupting the good woman in this part of her story, said Belpine, by venting my indignation in a volley of curses on that scandal to our family ; but she conjured me to moderate my passion, and resolve to shew no future marks of it, or protested she would reveal no farther ; I gave my promise to do as she desired, and she went on.”

‘ The deceitful creature, resumed she, hung about me all the time she was speaking with such a shew of innocence and grief, that at last, I am ashamed to say it, her tears, — her seeming penitence, — her humiliation melted me into pity, and I promised never to mention what I had discovered, on condition she would never repeat her offence ; and also that she should make some pretence to sir Thomas for getting the vile seducer of her honour removed out of the family.

‘ This she bound herself by the most solemn imprecation to perform ; — but alas ! — one day — another, and another, still came on, and pass’d away without any proof, or even probability of the sincerity of her con-

version;—she took care, indeed, not to be surprized in the manner she had been; but I easily saw by sir Thomas's behaviour, and some words he let fall in casual conversation, that there was no thought of parting with this French fellow till her ladyship was made perfect in the language.

I express'd my sentiments very plainly to her on this head, on which she told me that monsieur had not taken any freedoms with her since the time I catch'd them together, and that he had sworn never to attempt the like again; and added, that though she would be glad to get rid of him, and could not endure the sight of him, yet she could find no excuse to make to sir Thomas for leaving off learning French till she was become mistress of it, which she was far from being as yet.

This not satisfying me, I renewed my remonstrances to her as often as I had an opportunity; but I soon found that instead of working the effect I aimed at, she rather seem'd more hardened by them;—every time I spoke she answer'd in a more lofty strain; and at last told me that she would not be teased;—that it was sufficient she did not repeat her fault, and as for the rest she knew what was proper to be done, and would not be kept in leading-strings by any servant of her husband's.

I now plainly saw, that she was no less wicked tho' more wary than she had been;—I was troubled at the shame she would bring upon my master, and was debating within myself whether or not I should relate to him the discovery I had made, and all that had pass'd upon it between us, when an unforeseen accident saved me the pains of thinking any farther on the matter.

Her ladyship, who, as you may suppose, was never much respected by the servants on account of her birth, became every day less so through the strong suspicion they had of her incontinency; but the insolence of her gallant was intolerable to all of them, especially to Humphrey, who being the oldest servant in the house, except myself, would not submit to the impertinent commands of that French renegado; this causing many quarrels, he resolv'd to leave sir Thomas's service; but

before



‘ before he went, had an opportunity of revenging himself on those who were the occasion of his doing so.

‘ I was one morning with sir Thomas in his closet, settling my accounts, as I always did every month, when this Humphrey came running in and told him that my lady was in the summer-house at the farther end of the garden, and desired he would come to her that minute, for there was a great curiosity to be seen there.’ — ‘ What little fancy has she got in her head now, I wonder, said sir Thomas? but I’ll go.’ — ‘ Your honour must come immediately, cried the fellow, or the fight will be gone.’ — ‘ Well, well, reply’d he, she must be humour’d;’ — in speaking this he threw down the papers, and hurried away as fast as the burden of his years would let him.

‘ I staid some little time in the closet expecting sir Thomas would soon return; but finding he did not, left it and went down: — I had just got to the bottom of the stairs when he came in follow’d by my lady, — both of them with countenances strangely discomposed.’ — ‘ Sirrah, said he, very angrily to Humphrey, who happen’d to be in the passage, — how dare you tell me that your lady wanted to speak with me in the summer-house?’ — ‘ Sir, reply’d the fellow, with the greatest assurance, — I saw my lady and the young Frenchman run thither very fast, so I thought there might be something very extraordinary to be seen, — so made bold to tell your honour of it.’ — ‘ You are an impudent rascal, cried sir Thomas, and went up stairs, still followed by my lady.

‘ I wonder’d what all this meant, but was soon after inform’d of the whole matter: — the fellow, it seems, being convinced in his own mind that my lady and this Frenchman were too great, had watch’d all their motions, and finding that they retired almost every morning into this summer-house, when they knew sir Thomas was reading, or otherwise employ’d in his closet, he had taken this method of giving the injured husband an opportunity of detecting them.

‘ I did not approve of Humphrey’s proceeding in this point, and told him that let the matter be how it would, he must not hope to keep his place after what he had  
‘ done;

‘ done ; he reply’d, that he did not care how soon he  
 ‘ was discharged, — that he had got money enough to  
 ‘ set up an ale-house, and would not stay in any service  
 ‘ where he must be insulted by people no better born  
 ‘ than himself, and not half so honest.’

“ Here, said Belpine, I could not forbear interrupting  
 “ mrs. Jamison a second time, by asking how the shame-  
 “ ful pair behaved on the approach of my uncle.” —  
 ‘ All that can be known of that part of the story, re-  
 ‘ ply’d she, I was told by the gardener, who happen’d  
 ‘ to be at work very near the place ; — he said that sir  
 ‘ Thomas, on finding the door made fast, knock’d and  
 ‘ call’d to be let in, but no answer being made he beck-  
 ‘ on’d the gardener to him, and bad him clamber up to  
 ‘ the window and get in that way ; but on his attempt-  
 ‘ ing to do so, the door was opened by those within,  
 ‘ and sir Thomas having gain’d entrance, the man with-  
 ‘ drew, and went again to his work ; — he told me that  
 ‘ the Frenchman came out in a few minutes looking very  
 ‘ pale and discomposed, and that neither sir Thomas nor  
 ‘ his lady appear’d in a much better condition, though  
 ‘ they staid some time after, as he supposed, to talk the  
 ‘ business over.

‘ What pass’d between them on this score, pursued  
 ‘ mrs. Jamison is impossible to be known ; — all that I  
 ‘ can tell you is, that monsieur La Noye was dismiss’d  
 ‘ entirely from the family within two hours after ; — that  
 ‘ my lady either was or pretended to be very sick, and  
 ‘ sir Thomas appear’d in a worse humour than ever I had  
 ‘ seen him : — Humphrey was discharged that same day,  
 ‘ and the next the poor gardener and two other servants,  
 ‘ for what reason I know not, shared the same fate : —  
 ‘ indeed, I little thought it would also have been mine ;  
 ‘ but all the distinction I had to boast of from the rest  
 ‘ was, to be the last turn’d off.’

Belpine was going on, when Jemmy was call’d sud-  
 denly away to a gentlewoman, who, his servant told  
 him, was very earnest to speak with him ; — who this  
 person was, and what her business, the reader shall not  
 wait long to be inform’d.

## C H A P. III.

*If it cannot be said to deserve any encomium, it must at least be allowed to stand in no need of an apology.*

**T**HIS person who Jemmy had been told was so importunate to see him was no other than Mrs. Comode; — lady Hardy, after having been obliged to leave him so abruptly in the morning, went directly to this woman, and commission'd her to find him either at his own house or where-ever else he could be heard of, in order to excuse her behaviour by relating the accident which had occasion'd it; and also to know of him if he had yet thought of a convenient place for their meeting.

This necessary woman deliver'd her message with the utmost punctuality; and added, that she was extremely sorry for not having at present an apartment to accommodate them with; — ‘But, your honour may depend,’ said she, ‘that nothing in my power shall be wanting to oblige both you and the good lady.’

Jemmy received all this with great coolness, and only told her that lady Hardy should have a full declaration of his sentiments in a letter that same evening, — ‘Which,’ said he, ‘I will direct under a cover to you, as usual, and perhaps will be the last trouble I shall give you.’

She seem'd pretty much astonish'd on hearing him speak in this manner, and was going to make some reply; but he told her he had a friend within whom he could not leave alone any longer, so begg'd her pardon, and rung the bell for a servant to open the door.

He paused for some moments before he return'd to Belpine, considering whether he should inform him of the visit he had just received; but as he was so nearly interested in the honour of sir Thomas Hardy, he thought it best not to say any thing to him of an affair which was of no consequence in itself, and would only serve to add to the chagrin he was already in.

The other no sooner saw him re-enter the room, and that he was prepared to give attention to what he had to say, than he resumed his discourse in words to this effect:

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“ There is now little remaining to inform you of, said he, mrs. Jamison only told me, that for three or four days after La Noye was dismiss’d, her infamous ladyship kept her chamber; whether by the order of sir Thomas, or that she was really indisposed, she could not be certain; but during that time her artifices so far prevail’d upon him, that he not only discharged all those servants who he thought had any suspicion of her crime, but also forbid them from ever coming within his doors again on any pretence whatsoever.

“ I then ask’d her if she thought my uncle was really convinced of the infidelity of his wife;” — ‘ As much as I am myself, reply’d she, though he will not seem to be so, because the excessive fondness he has for her will not suffer him to part from her.

‘ I rather think, said I, that he stands in awe of the just ridicule of the world, for having married, at his years, a girl whose conduct obliged him to get rid of in so short a time.

‘ It may be owing partly to the one, and partly to the other of these motives, answer’d she; but however that may be, I can assure you that he will suffer no body to come near him that he imagines has the least suspicion of her virtue.

‘ This is sufficiently evident in the case of La Noye, added she; but I can give you another instance since the banishment of her Frenchman, she has been catch’d in pretty close conference with a young gentleman, who has been for some time a guest at a neighbouring seat; though sir Thomas has been told that a fine diamond ring, which her ladyship pretended to have lost, has been seen on the finger of that spark, he only affected to laugh at the intelligence, and has since broke off all acquaintance with the person from whom he received it.

“ This is the sum of that account given me by mrs. Jamison, said Belpine to Jemmy, and I must be in fact as stupid as my uncle affects to be, if I doubted the truth of it: — Judge then, my dear friend, continued he, of the unhappiness of my situation; — I am every moment in danger of being deprived of my inheritance

“ by



“ by the incontinency of this vile woman, and if I make any attempt to detect her infamy, am equally in danger of losing it by my uncle’s displeasure.”

Jemmy could not help agreeing with him, that there was, indeed, somewhat extremely precarious in his case; but told him he ought to console himself with this reflection, that as lady Hardy had never yet been pregnant, she might in all probability not be so while sir Thomas Hardy lived.

After this the conversation between them turn’d on various subjects, till Belpine having an engagement that evening took his leave; but before they parted Jemmy told him that his business in London being now entirely finish’d, he intended to set out the next morning for Bath, where he knew Jenny by this time expected him.

Belpine was not altogether so much chagrined at this intelligence as he would have been some days before; for though he would have been glad to have kept him from Jenny, yet he was pleas’d at his removing himself out of the way of lady Hardy:—men who are themselves deceitful, are always slow in giving credit to the sincerity of others;—he had not enough depended on the promise Jemmy had made of breaking off all intercourse with his aunt, till he found him resolv’d to go from the place she was in, and to which it was not likely he should return till she had left it, as he had heard sir Thomas say he intended to stay but a few days longer.

But not even this demonstration of his friend’s honour towards him had the power of touching his ungrateful heart with any remorse for what he had done, or of obliging him to desist from the prosecution of his wicked attempt to break the union between him and Jenny; as the reader must have observed by the letter he sent to her under the character of a supposed rival, and the invicious hints he threw out in the visit he made her on her arrival in town.

As for Jemmy, he was not much surprized at the account given him of lady Hardy’s conduct;—by the little he had seen of her behaviour since his renewing an acquaintance with her in the character she now bore, he was perfectly convinced that she had a great genius as well as inclination for intrigues, and had also often imagined

gined that an amour, such as she was about to enter into with him, was not a thing in which she was altogether unpractised.

He was not therefore sorry that his friendship for Bel-pine obliged him to discontinue an amorous correspondence with her; and as it was an affair at present not of his own seeking, and he had given into not through the force of passion but merely for the sake of amusement, cannot be supposed to give him any pangs in quitting.

He thought it a great pity, however, that a woman endowed by nature with beauty, wit, and every thing requisite to adorn the station to which she was raised, should know so little how to improve or to deserve the good fortune that had befallen her; and, in this serious humour, remembering the promise he had given to her emissary of making a full declaration of his sentiments by way of letter, sat down immediately and wrote to her in the following manner:

To lady HARDY.

MADAM,

“ I Know not how you will relish this epistle, but am-  
 “ very certain you ought to look upon it as the great-  
 “ est proof both of love and friendship that can be given  
 “ by man; — be not therefore startled when I tell you  
 “ that I must see you no more; — it is for your sake, and  
 “ yours alone, that I have taken this resolution, and tear  
 “ myself away from all the joys which beauty, such as  
 “ yours, has the power of bestowing.

“ I have well consider’d the consequences, which must  
 “ infallibly attend your entering into an amorous en-  
 “ gagement with me, and find that all the love I could  
 “ offer in return would be too poor a recompence for  
 “ those innumerable difficulties and dangers to which you  
 “ would be perpetually exposed by it.

“ Exert then the whole force of your reason to curb  
 “ the incroachments of lawless passion in your own heart,  
 “ and to disdain the shew of it in another; — set a true  
 “ value on yourself, and believe that no man living can  
 “ deserve that merely for the gratification of his desires  
 “ you should sacrifice your honour, — virtue, — reputa-  
 “ tion, — peace of mind, and, in fine, all that is valua-  
 “ ble in your sex.

“ This

" This advice may appear very odd in a man of my  
 " years ; but the less you expected it from me the more  
 " impression it ought to make on you ; you are not only  
 " a wife, but also bound by a double obligation to be  
 " just ; — remember the station for which you were de-  
 " sign'd by nature, and be not insensible of that to which  
 " you are rais'd by fortune ; — look round on the mag-  
 " nificence of every thing about you ; — think to whom  
 " you owe it, and let gratitude supply the place of love  
 " for a husband who so dearly prizes you.

" I allow that old age has something in it extremely  
 " disagreeable to youth ; — yet, methinks, the many ad-  
 " vantages you enjoy might compensate for that one de-  
 " ficiency ; and also remind you, that as sir Thomas,  
 " by the course of nature, cannot long be with you, it  
 " is only by observing a proper conduct while he lives  
 " that you can, after his decease, have any right to ex-  
 " pect the honourable addresses of a person capable of  
 " making you more happy.

" Before I take my leave I have one thing more to  
 " add, tho' it be a secret which my sex would hardly  
 " forgive me for revealing ; — we men are apt to think a  
 " woman is never singly kind ; — that the favours she  
 " grants to one, she is equally liberal of to others ; and,  
 " in this opinion, are seldom very thankful for the blef-  
 " sings we enjoy ; — if you take this truth upon the as-  
 " surance I give you of it, pride will enable you to for-  
 " bear making the experiment. — Farewel, believe that,  
 " tho' I cease henceforth all correspondence with you, I  
 " am,

" With the best wishes,

" Madam,

" Your ladyship's

" Most humble and

" Obliged servant,

" J. JESSAMY.

# P O S T S C R I P T.

" MADAM,

" To attempt sending to me again, either by letter or  
 " message, will be giving yourself an unprofitable trou-  
 " ble ; for, besides the resolution I have made of avoid-  
 " ing a communication which I can neither answer to  
 " myself

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 “ that I must see you no more; — it is for your sake, and  
 “ yours alone, that I have taken this resolution, and tear  
 “ myself away from all the joys which beauty, such as  
 “ yours, has the power of bestowing.

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 “ infallibly attend your entering into an amorous en-  
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 “ those innumerable difficulties and dangers to which you  
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“ Exert then the whole force of your reason to curb  
 “ the incroachments of lawless passion in your own heart,  
 “ and to disdain the shew of it in another; — set a true  
 “ value on yourself, and believe that no man living can  
 “ deserve that merely for the gratification of his desire  
 “ you should sacrifice your honour, — virtue, — reputa-  
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 “ ble in your sex.

“ This



" This advice may appear very odd in a man of my years ; but the less you expected it from me the more impression it ought to make on you ; you are not only a wife, but also bound by a double obligation to be just ; — remember the station for which you were design'd by nature, and be not insensible of that to which you are rais'd by fortune ; — look round on the magnificence of every thing about you ; — think to whom you owe it, and let gratitude supply the place of love for a husband who so dearly prizes you.

" I allow that old age has something in it extremely disagreeable to youth ; — yet, methinks, the many advantages you enjoy might compensate for that one deficiency ; and also remind you, that as sir Thomas, by the course of nature, cannot long be with you, it is only by observing a proper conduct while he lives that you can, after his decease, have any right to expect the honourable addresses of a person capable of making you more happy.

" Before I take my leave I have one thing more to add, tho' it be a secret which my sex would hardly forgive me for revealing ; — we men are apt to think a woman is never singly kind ; — that the favours she grants to one, she is equally liberal of to others ; and, in this opinion, are seldom very thankful for the blessings we enjoy ; — if you take this truth upon the assurance I give you of it, pride will enable you to forbear making the experiment. — Farewel, believe that, tho' I cease henceforth all correspondence with you, I am,

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" Obliged servant,

" J. JESSAMY.

P O S T S C R I P T.

" MADAM,

" To attempt sending to me again, either by letter or message, will be giving yourself an unprofitable trouble ; for, besides the resolution I have made of avoiding a communication which I can neither answer to  
" myself

" myself nor the regard I have for you, I shall infallibly leave this town to-morrow morning."

This he sealed up and put under a cover directed to Mrs. Comode, in which he wrote these lines:

" MADAM,

" Pray deliver the inclosed with your accustomed care,  
" and you will oblige

" Your humble servant,

" J. JESSAMY.

It must be own'd that the advice contain'd in the above was very good; but whether Jemmy would have acted in this manner if his passion for the lady had been more strong, or his friendship for Belpine less sincere, is a moot point, and must be left to the decision of the judicious reader.

#### CHAP. IV.

*Contains a brief recital of Jemmy's journey and return, with some other particulars, which if not very interesting will be found necessary, however, to be inserted.*

THE morning dew was yet upon the grass, when Jemmy, attended by one servant, set out for Bath in a post-chaise; — it happened a little unluckily for him that this was the very day that lady Speck's coach had broke down, and the company been obliged to put up in the first village till it was repair'd; but for which accident he might have spared himself part of his journey, and met those upon the road whom he went to seek at a greater distance.

Finding, on his arrival at Bath, that Jenny had left the place, he was no less disappointed and vex'd than he had expressed himself to be in the letter he sent to her from thence; — he took a lodging in the same house the ladies had quitted, and put many questions to the mistresses of it concerning the motive of their departing suddenly; but all she could answer was, that she believed it was on miss Wingman's account, as the old lady steward had been sent down, after which they had presently prepared for going.

In order to divert his thoughts, he no sooner had put off his travelling dress than he went to the Long-room

—but as it often happens that seeking pleasure we encounter pain, so it was with Jemmy, — here he met with something which instead of dissipating the gloominess of his mind, served only to render it more heavy.

There was a great deal of company, many of whom Jemmy had a slight acquaintance with, but none with whom he had any intimacy excepting one gentleman, who on the moment of his entering the room ran to embrace him, — “ Dear Jack, cry’d Jemmy to him, you wonder, I believe, to see me here at this tail of the season.” — “ No faith, reply’d the other, I should have wonder’d if I had seen you here before : — I have always observed that married people, and people that are going to break off, are always careful to avoid each other ; — they are like buckets in a well, — one up and the other down.”

“ What do you mean, demanded Jemmy a little gravely ?” — “ How dull of understanding you affect to be, said the other ; miss Jessamy left Bath one day, — you come to it the next ; — do you think the world don’t see into this ? — It was not, however, quite so politic, methinks ; you should have staid a day longer at least ; for sure you must meet, if not clash, upon the road.”

“ If I had been so fortunate, reply’d Jemmy, you would not have found me at Bath ; for I assure you it was only my impatience to see that lady that brought me hither.” — “ Then there is nothing in the story of your breaking with her, cry’d the gentleman, and going to be marry’d to miss Chit.” — “ Just as much, return’d he, as that you are going to be made King of the Romans.”

The other was about to make some answer ; but all farther discourse between them on this head was prevented for the present, by several gentlemen, who seeing Jemmy at a distance, came that instant towards him to pay their compliments to him on his arrival.

As Jemmy had never been the least sensible that any report was raised of his infidelity to Jenny, till he was told it by Mr. Morgan, he was the more surpris’d to hear it at Bath, and from the mouth of a person who had left London

London before he thought such a thing had ever been talk'd of there.

This making him extremely curious to know who had been his informers, he took an opportunity, when most of the company were engaged at play, to propose to him passing the remainder of the evening together at a tavern, to which the other readily agreed, and they immediately adjourn'd.

They had no sooner seated themselves than Jemmy renew'd the conversation which had been interrupted in the Long-room, and desired his friend, in the most earnest terms, to let him know by whom, and in what manner, he had been told so wild and so improbable a story as that of his breaking off with miss Jeffamy, and making his addresses to miss Chit?

'Faith, my dear Jeffamy, reply'd the other, I am afraid I shall be able to give you but little satisfaction in this point: — I think that the first time I ever heard any thing of it was at White's chocolate-house, the day before I left London; — but there being a good deal of company, I cannot for my soul recollect what gentleman began the discourse, though I know I was a good deal surprized at it, remembering that I had heard you express some uneasiness that your affairs in town would not permit you to accompany me to Bath, where you then said, the best part of yourself, meaning miss Jeffamy, was already gone.

'I must confess, continued he, that my journey, and one affair or other of my own, put this intelligence quite out of my head; till on my coming hither I found it the discourse of almost all the tea-tables where I have been; — some condemning, — others excusing your change; but every one agreeing in the certainty of the fact.'

Here Jemmy could not keep himself from expressing some astonishment, that a thing so utterly without the least foundation in truth should be able to obtain such credit, and more especially that it should already have reach'd to such a distance as Bath.

'For my part, resumed the gentleman, I see nothing strange in all this; — a story once raised, whether

'true



'true or false, immediately spreads itself like wildfire,  
'and runs through the ears and tongues of as many  
'as have any acquaintance with the persons concern'd  
'in it. — Do you not know what the poet tells us?

On Eagles wings immortal scandals fly.

'Besides, said he, Bath is the same thing as London;  
'—people are so perpetually going backwards and for-  
'wards, that what is talk'd on in one place can never  
'be long a secret in the other. — You may also find  
'another reason for the propagation of this rumour;  
'—you cannot suppose that either yourself or miss Jes-  
'samy are so little known, or so indifferent to the world,  
'as that it should not be interested in whatever concerns  
'you.'

This compliment was lost upon Jemmy in the humour  
he was at present; — they were going on, however,  
with some farther discourse on the same subject, when  
something else coming that instant into the gentleman's  
mind, he ask'd him suddenly if he had heard any thing  
of the hurly-burly that had happen'd in the house where  
miss Jessamy and the other ladies lodged; — to which  
Jemmy answer'd in the negative, and desired to know  
of what nature.

The other then repeated to him what he had heard  
from the mouth of common fame; — that a woman,  
who it was said had been kept by Celandine, and ran  
mad on his quitting her, had attempted to stab miss  
Jessamy; — that Mr. Lovegrove had sent him a challenge  
on that young lady's account, which he refused to ac-  
cept; but that some brulee happening between them af-  
terwards, they were both carried before a magistrate,  
where Mr. Lovegrove, being proved the aggressor, was  
obliged to give bail; and the other, to avoid being  
pointed at for a coward, went directly out of the town.

"Well, but the occasion, my dear friend, cried  
Jemmy hastily, how was Celandine answerable for  
the fury of his forsaken mistress? or if he could be so,  
how came Lovegrove, who all the world knows  
courts lady Speck, to be so warm in his resentment  
on the account of any other woman?"

'Indeed, reply'd the other, the whole affair seems  
to me, and to all whom I have heard speak of it, as  
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‘ much a mystery as it can be to yourself:—I can only  
 ‘ tell you what happen’d;—but as to the why and the  
 ‘ wherefore, it must be left to time, and the parties  
 ‘ themselves to unfold.’

Jemmy’s impatience to know every thing relating to an event in which he thought himself so deeply interested, made him persecute his friend with a thousand questions, which were altogether unavailing, as the other had it not in his power to inform him in any more than he had already done.

Hoping, however, to get better intelligence at home, he took leave of his friend more early than otherwise he would have done, yet came to his lodging too late for what he had propos’d;—the gentlewoman of the house was gone to bed, and he was compell’d to defer taking any measures for the satisfaction of his curiosity till the next day.

In the morning the mistress of the house, on his requesting it, drank chocolate with him in his own apartment; but at first was very cautious in her replies to the interrogatories he put to her, till finding he was already informed of the quarrel between mr. Lovegrove and Celandine, and also on whose account it happen’d, she made no scruple of relating to him all she knew of the transaction of the garden, and the danger miss Jemmy had been in from the jealous rage of mrs. M——.

Let any one, who is truly a lover, judge how much Jemmy must be shock’d on hearing the double danger to which his mistress had been expos’d; and as he doubted not but his presence would have secured her from meeting either with the one or the other of the insults, he severely condemn’d himself for having suffer’d any thing to keep him from her.

He met with several of his acquaintance here, who would fain have detain’d him among them during the remainder of the season; but all the persuasions in the world would not now have prevail’d upon him to stay a moment longer than he could conveniently depart.

By way of attonement for the vexation, and perhaps the slights Jenny might have sustain’d through the report of his infidelity, he resolv’d to shew that he came

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Bath only for her sake, and that neither the place nor company had any charms for him now she was gone.

Accordingly he set out for London, after giving one day's rest to his servant, who, as he had wrote to Jenny, was very much hurt by a fall he had received in the journey thither.

## C H A P. V.

*Displays love in colours very different from those in which that passion generally appears, and seems calculated chiefly for the entertainment of the young and fair; but will scarcely be displeasing to such as are not so, with this proviso, that they have no share of envy in their composition.*

NOT the sybils of antiquity, nor those enthusiasts who mounted the hallowed tripod, more mistook for the inspiration of their fictitious deity the frenzy of their own heated imaginations, or were more deceived themselves, or capable of deceiving others, than those lovers are who dignify with the sacred name of a pure and virtuous affection that passion which is excited merely by beauty and the difference of sex.

I have heard of some ladies of that romantic turn of mind as not to be convinced of their lovers sincerity without the most fatal proofs, and have took in good earnest what the humourous poet meant only in ridicule:

He that will hang or beat out's brains,

The devil's in him if he feigns.

But though it is to be hoped that far the greater number are of a more reasonable way of thinking, yet I am afraid that even among some of these the hero of this history will be look'd upon as no more than a half-lover at the best; — he could be perfectly easy and gay out of his Jenny's company; — nay, — and what is less to be forgiven, amuse the hours of absence from her in an amorous conversation with other women, when with her he has hitherto discovered none of those impatiencies, — those alternate hopes and fears, — those extravagancies which men so frequently put in practice, and which their mistresses are apt to take as the most certain indications of a true and ardent passion.

Yet,

Yet, in spite of all these deficiencies, — omissions, — commissions, and other sins against the god of love, I doubt not to bring him, by degrees, into the good graces of the most imperious, vain, and tyrannic of my fair readers.

It will appear that he loved the object of his honourable flame much more than he knew he did himself; — he had never been sensible of the least jealousy on her account, nor, indeed, had taken much pains to prevent that passion from laying hold on her; yet no sooner had he reason to believe she was made acquainted with the story of his falshood, than he felt all the pangs which he supposed had seized her heart on receiving a shock so unexpected.

What was wanting in the violence of that passion he had for her was abundantly made up with tenderness; — he trembled not for himself but her; — conscious of his innocence, he had no cause to dread the reproaches she might meet him with; but was ready to sink under the apprehensions of what she endured, till he was fully clear'd of this unjust accusation.

It was now that he first began to feel that burning impatience to be with her which all lovers pretend to have, though few perhaps, very few, in reality experience; — it was not that he so much languish'd to feast his eyes upon her beauties, or his ears with her wit and engaging conversation, though both had charms for him preferable to those of any other woman in the world; but it was to ease her of all suspense in regard to his integrity; and convince her, by the most unquestionable testimony, that he was incapable of love for any but herself.

Let the discreet, and judging part of womankind speak their opinion of a lover such as this, and I believe Jemmy himself might safely appeal to the verdict they would give.

The freedom with which from their infancy they had been accusom'd to converse together abolish'd all manner of ceremony between them; but had more been required, Jemmy's eagerness to see her would not have permitted him to make use of any at this time: — he order'd the postilion to drive directly to the house where she

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she was lodged, and without going home, or having any thoughts of changing his travelling dress, flew up stairs, nor even waited till a servant should apprise her of his arrival.

This, however, being the day in which his letter had made her expect his coming, she had taken care to be at home and alone, judging it improper there should be any witnesses of a conversation which she knew not but might be of too much importance to be divulged.

On seeing him enter the room, she rose hastily from her seat and received the embrace he gave her with the same sweetness and obliging air with which she had always treated him — “my dear, — dear Jenny, cried he, throwing himself a second time upon her bosom, — how many disappointments have I suffer’d before I could attain the blessing I now enjoy?”

‘I should have shared with you in those disappointments, answered she smiling, if I had not been assured that whatever pleasures you missed the enjoyment of at Bath were very well attoned for by others that you met with in London.’

“Cruel sarcasm, rejoin’d he, looking earnestly on her face, — could I have expected it from a mouth so much used to softness? — if to have been detained from the presence of all my soul holds dear; — if to have been involved in affairs to which my nature is the most averse; — if to have been aspersed, — scandalized, — doubly wounded in my love and honour by a villainous report; — if these are pleasures, I have indeed met with enough to gratify the spleen of my worst enemies, but should methinks excite my Jenny’s pity.”

‘One cannot rightly pity, reply’d she more seriously, what one is not perfectly acquainted with; — you may perhaps have had some embarrassments which you did not think proper to communicate to me, and I was loth to depend too much on what I heard from others.’

“The less you have depended, said he, the more generous you are, and the more fortunate I am; — I need not ask what it is you mean; — I know you have been told that I am inconstant, perfidious; — that, insensible to your merits and the happiness ordained for

“ me by the best of fathers, I have basely transferred my  
“ vows and affections to another.

“ This story, continued he, perceiving she was silent,  
“ false and absurd as in itself it is, has not only gained  
“ strange credit here, but I find has also been carried  
“ down to Bath, and cannot have escaped your ears. —  
“ I hope you know your Jemmy better than to imagine  
“ there was even a possibility of there being the least  
“ truth in it; yet the uneasiness you may have felt  
“ through your regard for me, in finding it believed by  
“ others, has given me a mortification beyond what I  
“ am able to express.”

“ Much pains has indeed been taken, reply’d Jenny, to  
“ perswade both myself and friends, that you no longer  
“ thought me worthy of your affection, and were weary of  
“ the engagement made for us by our parents; but I as-  
“ sure you that I never gave the least credit to any insi-  
“ nuations of this kind, tho’ made in the most specious  
“ manner imaginable.”

She was going on, — but Jemmy could not forbear  
interrupting her, by catching her in his arms, and testifi-  
ing by that action, as well as by the most rapturous ex-  
pressions, the grateful sense he had of the justice she had  
done him.

After having indulged him for some moments, ‘ It was  
‘ not, said she, that I was thus tenacious of your con-  
‘ stancy through any vanity of my own merits, but  
‘ through a perfect confidence in the sincerity of your  
‘ heart; — I was far from thinking it impossible that you  
‘ should cease to love me, but then I also thought it im-  
‘ possible that you would not at the same time cease all  
‘ professions of it; — I always believed you incapable of  
‘ deceit, and therefore could not give credit to your  
‘ change of sentiments in respect to me, while you con-  
‘ tinued to assure me they were the same as ever.’

“ Charming, — angelic creature!” cried he, seizing  
her a second time, and pressing her with the extreme  
tenderness to his breast, “ How beyond all description  
“ villainous, as well as stupid, must be the man who  
“ could wrong such excelling sweetness, — such unpa-  
“ rallel’d goodness!”

Jenny

Jenny then told him, that whoever had propagated this report must certainly be greatly interested in having it believed, since such uncommon methods had been taken for that purpose, — ‘as you will presently be convinced,’ continued she, by what I have to shew you.

In speaking these words she ran hastily to a little cabinet, and having taken thence the letter which had been sent to lady Speck at Bath, and that other which she had received herself since her coming to town from a pretended rival, put them both into his hands, and desired him to peruse them.

Jemmy read them over with an equal mixture of rage and astonishment; — he now plainly saw, that to break the union between him and Jenny must have been a thing contrived by some person who was an enemy to both, and could not proceed merely from the vanity of miss Chit, in imagining him her lover; — much less could he think it possible that any woman was capable of raising such a report, for the sake of revenge, against a man for not loving her, who had never pretended to do so.

He repeated to Jenny, without the least reserve, the motive of his being at first introduced to that young lady’s acquaintance, and of the visits he continued to make at her house, till he was informed by mr. Morgan what the world said of it; — protested, as he might do with the greatest veracity, that he never had the least thought of making an amorous address to her on any score whatever.

They were still upon this topick, and endeavouring, by various conjectures, to fathom the bottom of an affair which seem’d so mysterious to both of them, when a servant came into the room to lay the cloth, Jenny having ordered supper should be served up that night in her own chamber.

This changed the subject of their entertainment for the present; but the business of the table was no sooner over than more and greater matters came upon the carpet.

## CHAP. VI.

*Will be found yet more affecting than the former, unless the reader is as dull as perhaps he may think the author.*

**W**HEN our lovers had regain'd the opportunity of communicating freely to each other all that their minds were charged with, Jemmy, who had thought a good deal of what had been told him concerning the insults Jenny had received from Celandine and his outrageous mistress, began to testify a desire of being fully informed in the particulars of an adventure he had heard but an imperfect account of at Bath.

Jenny hesitated not to comply with his request; but tho' she expatiated, with all the wit and satire she was mistress of, on Celandine's behaviour in regard to the challenge sent him by Mr. Lovegrove, yet she took care to avoid setting his impertinence towards herself in so bad a light as she might have done, and it indeed deserved.

Never had this young lady given a greater demonstration of her prudence, than in thus shadowing over, as much as truth would permit, the insolence of Celandine; — she consider'd that it was not unlikely that Jemmy might some time or other meet him, and think himself obliged to call him to a severe account for an affront offered to the woman whom it was so publicly known he was about to marry.

She soon found how necessary had been the precaution she had taken: — Jemmy flew into the extremest rage at the presumption of Celandine, even on hearing it in the manner she recited it; and she was obliged, before she could bring him to any degree of moderation, to remind him that all the actions of so egregious a coxcomb proceeded more from folly than design, and merited rather contempt than indignation from a man of sense.

“ You see, my dear Jenny, said he, how many inconveniencies have attended the protraction of our marriage so much beyond the time in which it was expected to have been consummated; — for heaven's

sake, therefore, let us put an end to the suspense that

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"every one is in, and convince the world that we indeed are born only for each other.

'Could you then resolve, cry'd she, with an air which had something very meaning in it, to renounce all the joys of an unhoused condition, as Otway calls a single life, and give up your liberty before fully satiated with the sweets you men find in it? — How would it sound at mrs. Comode's, that mr. Jessamy was become a husband?' —

"Mrs. Comode!" repeated he; she made no answer presently, but went again to her cabinet to fetch the letter he had intended for lady Hardy, and put it open into his hands.

'How would marriage, my dear Jemmy resumed she, agree with the promise you made in this, — of coming to the arms of the kind she to whom you wrote it, with a heart intirely unincumber'd with any cares but those of pleasing her?' —

The consternation he was in at this sight is utterly impossible to be described; but recovering himself from it as well as he could, — "Before I make any attempt," said he, either to excuse or justify my conduct in this point, tell me, I conjure you, by what means this letter came into your possession."

'You need but turn the paper, answer'd she, and the superscription will inform you?' — he did so, and finding it — 'To miss Jessamy at Bath,' — instantly discover'd the mistake he had committed, and cry'd out in the greatest confusion, — "Good God! — how justly is my folly punished! —" then turning to Jenny, — "Yet when known, continued he, by how odd an accident I was betray'd into this error, you will, I am sure, forgive me."

'I will know nothing farther of this matter, reply'd Jenny, nor shall I ever think of it hereafter; — all I desire is, that when we marry you will either have no amours, or be more cautious in concealing them; — and in return, I promise never to examine into your conduct, — to send no spies to watch your motions, — to listen to no tales that might be brought me, nor by any methods whatever endeavour to discover more than you would have me.'

“ Generous creature, rejoin’d he kissing her hand, yet  
 “ permit me to assure you, by all my hopes of happi-  
 “ ness, that the fault I am now detected in was never  
 “ eagerly pursued by me ; — that it was only an inten-  
 “ tion ; — did not proceed to fact ; — and that an angel’s  
 “ form can hereafter never tempt me to swerve, even in  
 “ thought, from the fidelity I owe my dear forgiving  
 “ Jenny.”

‘ Make no vows on this last head, I beseech you, said  
 ‘ she ; I have heard people much older, and more expe-  
 ‘ rienced than ourselves, say that the surest way to do a  
 ‘ thing is to resolve against it.’

‘ Besides, my dear Jemmy, added she with the most  
 ‘ engaging sprightliness, — I shall not be so unreasonable  
 ‘ to expect more constancy from you than human nature  
 ‘ and your constitution will allow ; and if you are as  
 ‘ good as you can, may very well content myself with  
 ‘ your endeavours to be better.’

What so much gains upon the soul as to meet endear-  
 ments where we expected only reproaches, according to  
 the words of a late honourable author ?

Kindness has resistless charms,  
 All things else but faintly warms ;  
 It gilds the lover’s servile chain,  
 And makes the slave grow pleased and vain.

To find Jenny thus turning into pleasantry what would  
 have made other women swell into a storm of rage and  
 jealousy, transported Jemmy almost beyond himself ; he  
 thought she was somewhat superior to mortality and half  
 divine, and ascribed to her what mr. Addison makes  
 Juba say of Cato’s daughter :

The virtuous Marcia tow’rs above her sex,  
 True, she is fair, O how divinely fair !  
 But then the lovely maid improves her charms,  
 With wisdom, modesty, good-nature,  
 And sanctity of manners.——

In the exuberance of his present admiration, he gave  
 her such praises as not being able to endure the hearing,  
 she put her hand before his mouth to silence, — ‘ Hold  
 ‘ Jemmy, said she, you cannot entertain me with any  
 ‘ thing less agreeable, than encomiums which, thank  
 ‘ Heaven, I am not so silly as to imagine I deserve:—

‘If you would oblige me let us change the conversation.’

“Oh Jenny, — Jenny, — Jenny,” cry’d he, sending forth a tender sigh between every repetition of her name, — “How is it possible for me to think or speak of any thing but your transcendent goodness and my own unworthiness?”

In pronouncing these last words he fix’d his eyes upon the letter which had given him so much confusion, and he had thrown upon the table after having seen what it was. — Jenny perceiving on what his looks were bent, snatch’d it hastily away, and running to a candle set it immediately on fire. — ‘This testimonial of your fault,’ said she, shall no more rise up against you, and as it consumes, may all remembrance of it for ever be extinguish’d.’

The heart of Jemmy was so much overwhelmed with love and gratitude at this action, and the words that accompanied it, that he could not refrain the most extravagant demonstrations of what he felt; — he threw himself at her feet, and embraced her knees with transports not to be described, nor even by himself express’d.

It was with a great deal of difficulty that she made him rise from the posture he was in, and much more that she prevailed on him to talk no more on this affair; to which, on whatever topic she began, he would still return.

The time pass’d so swiftly, as well as sweetly, in this tender intercourse, that the lovers never so much as thought on hours, nor once look’d upon their watches, till the sonorous guardian of the night, with his usual solemnity, thunder’d in their ears — ‘Past two o’ clock.’

It was now that Jemmy first reflected how much he had transgress’d on his dear mistress’s repose, and therefore prepared to take an unwilling leave; but she would not suffer him to go till her servant, none of his own being there, had got a chair for him, which being brought, they embraced, kiss’d, and parted, the behaviour of each to the other having imprinted a mutual satisfaction in their minds, greater than ever either of them had before experienced.

## CHAP. VII.

*Is very concise, and presents the reader only with some few passages, by way of a preparative for events, shortly to ensue, of an infinitely far greater consequence.*

THE good-natured reader must certainly be pleased to find, that all the base artifices of Belpine were so entirely frustrated; — that all his endeavours to dissolve the union between the lovers had only served to cement it the more firmly; — they were now in a fair way of being as happy as could be wish'd; and that the ungenerous contriver of the plots against them had the mortification to see all his labour had been thrown away.

He could not, indeed, any longer flatter himself with the least hopes of success; — the last conversation he had with Jemmy before he went to Bath, and that he had with Jenny on her arrival from that place, convinced him that neither the one nor the other were to be wrought upon by any projects he could frame.

Besides the disappointment of those vain hopes he had entertain'd of becoming one day the master of Jenny's person and fortune, it vexed him to the heart to have lost himself in the good graces of miss Chit; not that he had any regard for her, on her own account; but because, as has been already observed, he was soliciting for an employment at court, where he knew that young lady had a very great interest.

He had never attempted to visit her since the concert, when, as the reader may remember, she had given him a rebuff which might well make him fearful of approaching her again, without some more plausible pretence than it was in his power to make, to cover the occasion he had given her of offence.

It also fell out, very unluckily for him, that just at this time the post he was endeavouring to procure happened in the disposal of a certain great person, who, it was said, was too nearly allied to miss Chit to have refused any thing she ask'd; — well therefore might he be chagrined at having, by a foolish scheme, incurr'd the displeasure of one so able, and where he had reason to believe, would otherwise have been so ready to serve him.

Miss



Miss Chit had, indeed, a great deal of good-nature, and an inclination to afford all the assistance in her power, to any one who she thought either wanted or deserved it; — she had been acquainted with Belpine for a considerable time, had look'd upon him as a very facetious tea-table visiter, and he had not deceived himself in believing she would have exerted her whole interest in his favour.

But all the good-will she once had for him was now justly converted into an adequate resentment; — she was gay and flighty, but wanted not understanding; — she plainly saw he had imposed upon her on Mr. Jessamy's account, by the answer that gentleman had sent to her card of invitation; and as she was not able to conceive with what design he had made her the dupe, it gave her the more disquiet, and dwelt the longer on her mind.

She likewise found he had told the same story he had done to herself to several of her friends, who were continually teasing her with one question or another concerning this imaginary lover; nor could all her protestations that she knew nothing of the matter, pass with any of them for more than maiden bashfulness.

All this while, however, she knew not how much she suffer'd in the opinion of some people, till a pretty extraordinary chance discover'd it to her.

On account of some apprehensions of an inward decay, she had been advised to drink milk warm from the cow with conserve of roses; and in compliance with this recipe, went every morning into the park, and sat upon a bench while her maid prepared the dose she was to take.

It happen'd that at one of these times two elderly gentlemen came and placed themselves on the same seat; — they took no other notice of her than the compliment of — 'By your leave, madam;' — nor did she much regard the near neighbourhood of them, as their age and gravity defended her from the fears of being treated by them with any of those impertinencies she might have had reason enough to expect from the more young and gay.

They talked only of the weather, — the calamity of the times, — and such like common topics of conversation, till he, who appear'd to be somewhat the oldest of the two, started up on a sudden and went hastily towards a

footman who he saw passing along on the other side of the Mall.

On his return, — ‘ If I am not mistaken, said his friend, the person you have been speaking to belongs to mr. Jessamy.’ — “ Yes, reply’d he, I did not know his master was in town, but it seems he came last night.” — ‘ Are you acquainted with him, pray.’ — “ No otherwise, said he, than by seeing him at a coffee-house where I sometimes go; but I am told he is a very accomplished gentleman.” — ‘ As any in town, rejoind the old gentleman pretty eagerly; — and I can tell you, has as few of the vices of it.’

Before we proceed any farther, it is highly proper to inform the reader, that the person who spoke with so much friendly warmth was no other than that very mr. Morgan, mention’d in the nineteenth chapter of the second volume of this history, for the remarkable conference he had with Jemmy on account of his supposed infidelity to Jenny.

This hearty well-wisher of Jemmy was about to add something farther in his praise, but was hinder’d from doing so at that time by the others saying, that he had heard some talk of the match between him and miss Jessamy was broke off, and that he made his addressee at present to a young lady call’d miss Chit.

‘ Nothing in it, upon my word, sir, reply’d mr. Morgan a little peevishly; — all an idle story, raised by the vain girl herself: — I heard it too, and I believe was the first that told him of it; but I never saw a man so much surpris’d and vexed. — She wanted to draw him in, I suppose; — she has a good voice, it seems, and plays on the Harpsichord; — he made her some few visits on that score, and she was so silly as either to believe him really in love with her, or to endeavour to make others believe so if she could; — that is all, upon my honour, sir.’

It is easy to conceive what miss Chit must feel on being witness of this discourse: — on hearing mr. Jessamy named, she had sat longer than else she would have done, out of mere curiosity of knowing what would be said of him, but little expected to hear such a character of herself;

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self;—she as yet, however, restrain'd the passion she was in, and mr. Morgan went on.

‘Thank Heaven I have no daughters, resumed he; formerly a young maid was ready to blush to death at being told a man was in love with her; but now, forsooth, the girls are as proud of a new lover as they are of a new suit of cloaths, and want as much to shew it;—but a-lack-a-day, miss Chit quite miss'd her mark in my friend Jessamy;—he loves music, 'tis true; but is not to be sung or play'd out of his senses.’

She could now hold out no longer;—“Do you know this miss Chit, sir, demanded she, whom you speak of in this contemptuous manner?”—“No truly, madam, answer'd he; but if I did, should make no scruple to tell her my mind on this occasion.”—“If you had the least acquaintance with her, return'd she, you would find she stood in no need of any lessons you could give.—I can assure you she despises the thoughts of drawing in any man;—she is above it;—and as for boasting of her lovers has too many who are really such for her to be vain on any imaginary single one.”

With these words she quitted the bench, and casting a disdainful look on mr. Morgan took hold of her maid's arm and tripp'd down the walk with the utmost precipitation.

What the gentlemen said of her after she was gone, or whether mr. Morgan had any guess that she was the person he had been speaking of is not material, I shall only say that the affronted lady went home in the greatest agitations;—that she wept, —raved, —curst Belpine as the primary cause of all this, and at last took a resolution to do what will presently be shewn.

#### C H A P. VIII.

*Contains a most extraordinary, as well as unexpected turn in the lovers affairs, not fit to be read by those who have very tender hearts or watery eyes.*

THE joy one feels on being forgiven an offence which one repents, and is heartily ashamed of, can be surpass'd by nothing but that most sublime satisfaction which must fill the mind of the person who forgives;

gives ; — both our lovers were equally pleased with themselves and with each other, and there wanted but one thing to compleat the felicity of either.

As for Jenny, it cannot be supposed that she wish'd a supream happiness than what she now enjoy'd in a full assurance of the affection and sincerity of her dear Jemmy ; but we will not pretend to say that his desires were altogether so much circumscribed, — he thought it was now high time to fulfil the agreement made between their parents, and the more so, as it would be the only sure way of totally silencing the present invidious report, and of preventing all others of the like nature from being propagated hereafter.

This last, he thought, would be a prevailing motive with her, and therefore resolv'd to omit neither that nor any other argument which all the love and wit he was master of could furnish him with, to gain her consent to a speedy celebration of their nuptials.

The pleasing contemplations on Jenny's behaviour towards him the evening before, — her thousand amiable qualities, and the idea of that happiness he hop'd shortly to be in full possession of, kept him in bed somewhat longer than was his custom ; but he was no sooner up and dress'd, than he hasten'd to the apartment of that dear mistress who had been the sole object both of his dreams and waking thoughts.

He found miss Wingman with her, but was not sorry he did so ; for as he knew that lady was acquainted with the story of his imaginary falshood, by the letter which had been sent to lady Speck, he made no scruple of saying to Jenny great part of what he would have done, had she not been present ; nor was Jenny at all displeased that this young lady should be witness how little foundation there was for the reports which had been spread.

‘ Indeed, my dear,’ said miss Wingman, on hearing him press the completion of their marriage, — ‘ I think you ought not to refuse compliance with mr. Jessamy's desires, if it were only to make him some amends for the vexation he must have endured in the late scandal thrown upon him.’

‘ First be generous yourself, before you direct others to be so, reply'd Jenny laughing ; mr. Jessamy cannot

‘ have



'have suffer'd more, or with less reason, than lord Huntley has done; and when I see you inclined to make a reparation, I may perhaps be prevail'd upon to follow your example.'

'I do not know how soon I may be obliged to it, resum'd that lady, for sir Thomas Welby and my mamma are so ashamed and concern'd at the injury they have done my lord by their unjust suspicions, that, by way of attonement, they are for making a present of me to him, almost whether I will or not.'

'Excellent, i' faith, cry'd Jemmy, you are caught, my dear Jenny, and have made a promise without knowing you did so; — I shall, however, be obliged to watch and pray for lord Huntley's happiness, as I find my own so much depends upon it.'

They went on in the same strain of pleasantry all the time miss Wingman staid; but after she was gone Jemmy began to renew his suit with more seriousness, and had the pleasure to find it was not altogether rejected, though not immediately comply'd with.

'It is not owing to the want of affection for you, said she with the most enchanting softness, but rather to an excess of it, that I would yet a little longer protract what you at present seem so earnestly to desire; — men are often deceived in their own hearts; — I speak not to reproach you for any amours you may have been engaged in, or that I am jealous of any you may hereafter be engaged in; — no, — my dear Jemmy, I should not think that even marriage gave me a right to censure, or to pry into your actions; it is for your own sake alone that I would have you forbear making a vow of constancy till you are very certain of being quite out of love with variety; but rather continue in a condition which allows you full liberty to pursue whatever pleasures you think fit, without having any occasion to condemn yourself.'

'I should be ready to condemn myself to everlasting horrors, cry'd he, could I be capable of lavishing one tender thought on any but she who so well deserves all, and much more than I can pay. — I confess I have been guilty of some follies; but in all my amusements with your sex, my heart had never the least share; —

'no,

‘ no, — that was always, — is, — and ever must be intirely, — unchangeably, — inviolably devoted to my only dear, dear Jenny.’

They were in the midst of this tender conversation, when the persons with whom Jenny boarded, hearing Jemmy was above, sent to intreat he would honour them with his company at dinner that day ; which invitation, for the sake of not being separated from Jenny, he willingly accepted.

These people were well-bred, and perfectly chearful ; but the lovers liking no company so well as that of each other, staid no longer with them than decency demanded, and Jemmy had again an opportunity of repeating his solicitations, which he did in the most pressing and emphatic terms.

How far he would have been able to prevail is uncertain ; — Jenny’s servant came into the room, and told her that a young lady, who call’d herself miss Chit, was in a chair at the door, and desired leave to wait on her.

On hearing the name of miss Chit, Jemmy and Jenny look’d upon each other with the utmost astonishment. — ‘ Are you acquainted with her, cry’d he ?’ — ‘ Not in the least, answer’d she, nor can imagine what should bring her here ; — but go, said she to the man, and shew her up.’

They had no time to form any conjectures, the lady immediately came in, and Jenny rose to receive her with her accusom’d politeness, but mixt with a certain reserve, which she neither could nor endeavour’d to throw off.

‘ You are doubtless surprized, madam, said miss Chit, at receiving a visit from one so much a stranger to you, but you will pardon the liberty I have taken when you know the necessity that oblig’d me to it.’ — ‘ I cannot suppose, madam, reply’d Jenny, that you would have given yourself this trouble without being induced by some extraordinary motive.’ — An extraordinary one, indeed, madam, resumed the other ; and I am very glad to meet you here, mr. Jessamy, continued she, addressing herself to Jemmy, — as what I have to say to this lady, concerns you also.’ — ‘ You are certainly in the right, madam, added he very gravely ;

‘for whatever relates to this lady must infallibly concern me too.’

‘I never believed the contrary, sir, said miss Chit, nor doubted of the sincerity of your attachment to one so deserving of it; — and it was, in some measure, to do justice to you, that brought me hither, as well as to vindicate myself from the most cruel aspersion that ever was laid on any one of my sex.’

No reply being made to these words, she went on, — ‘It is scarce possible, said she, that either of you can have escaped the hearing a report, which, absurd as it is, has been strangely propagated about town, concerning the intended marriage between you being broke off; but you perhaps may be ignorant that your pretended friend Belpine was the sole author of this invention.’

‘Belpine, cry’d they both out at the same time, — ‘Sure, madam, you mistake.’ — ‘Yes, Belpine, rejoined she, for what base ends I know not, would fain have had me so weak as to believe mr. Jessamy was not only false to his first vows, but also false on my account: — I pretend not to be free from the follies my sex are charged with, yet was never vain enough to believe a man in love with me till he had told me so himself; and therefore gave no credit to all he said and swore upon that subject: — his artifices, however, wrought so far upon my father, and all those of my friends with whom he had any acquaintance, that wherever I went I was entertain’d with no other discourse than my imaginary conquest; — I was very much amazed at all this; but other thoughts kept it from dwelling much upon my mind, till this morning I was grossly affronted by being told that I myself had spread about this foolish story, as having flatter’d myself that the few visits mr. Jessamy had favour’d me with were made on the account of his having a passion for me.’

‘It is no matter, madam, cry’d Jemmy, by whom or in what manner this ridiculous story has been propagated; — but tell me, was it from Belpine that you were first inform’d of this pretended villainy?’

‘Yes, sir, answer’d she, it was by him — and him alone, that your character has been traduced, miss Jessamy

‘ Jessamy without doubt disquieted, and myself attempted to be deceived, as you will presently be convinced if you have patience to listen to the monstrous detail I can give you of his behaviour.’

She then went on, and gave a succinct account of all the particulars she knew of Belpine’s conduct in this affair, which, as the reader is already perfectly acquainted with, need not be here repeated.

Jenny opened not her lips, but listen’d with the greatest attention to all she said ; — but Jemmy could not keep himself from interrupting her almost at every sentence by some vehement exclamation, and when he spoke not, discover’d by his gestures all the marks of an overboiling rage.

‘ Well, madam, cried he, perceiving she had done, — I see that Belpine has been the Boutefeu ; — for what reason he has been so, it belongs to me to penetrate.’ — he said no more, but snatching up his hat, which lay on a table near him, flew down stairs without taking any other leave.

Jenny, having observed the agitations he had been in, was extremely frightened at this last action ; — she ran and open’d the door, which he had flung after him as he went, and call’d as loud as she could to him, to come back ; but he either heard not, or would not at that time obey her summons.

She then stamp’d with both her feet, and rung the bell for her footman with such violence as snapp’d the wire by which it hung ; — ‘ Run, cry’d she, overtake Mr. Jessamy, who is just gone out of the house ; — tell him I must needs speak with him, and desire he will return this instant.’

It is not to be doubted but that the fellow did his best ; but notwithstanding all the speed he made, the person he pursued was gone quite out of sight : — this increasing the ferment on Jenny’s spirits, — ‘ I wish, madam, said she to Miss Chit, you had reserved the story you have been telling till you had found me alone ; — it is dangerous to let one gentleman know too much of the injuries he has sustain’d from another.’

‘ I should be sorry, madam, reply’d that young lady, that what I meant well should prove the contrary ; but

‘ I flatter



'I flatter myself the event will give me no cause for repentance; — Mr. Jessamy, I hope, will only examine Belpine on this affair; — he is not worthy of his sword; — nor, as base men are generally cowards, will scarcely be provoked to meet it.'

Jenny making no answer, and continuing to walk about the room in a disordered motion, the other easily perceived her company was not desired, so took her leave without much ceremony on either side.

Impossible is it to describe the apprehensions, the alarms, which shook the tender heart of Jenny for what might be the consequences of the discovery Miss Chit had made; — she figured to herself all that was terrible on the occasion, and could scarce bear up under the ideas of her own formation.

But if she suffer'd so much through the fears of what might, or might not happen, what must the cruel certainty inflict, when in about three hours after she saw Jemmy enter the room with a countenance pale and confused, and his cloaths sprinkled in many places with blood! — 'Oh Heavens! cry'd she, what have you been doing?' — 'An act of justice, reply'd he, which I can repent of for no other reason than as it compels me to be once more separated from you. — I know not but I have kill'd the villain Belpine, and prudence requires that I should be out of the way for a short time.' — 'But whither will you go?' demanded she in a voice scarce articulate, — 'Where can you be safe?' — 'I have already taken care of that, answered he, all is prepared for my departure, and I but stay to snatch one dear embrace.'

'Go then, — Oh go! cry'd she, and hazard not your safety by a moment's delay.' — 'Tho' she spoke this with all the courage she could assume, yet she could not so well conceal the trembling of her whole frame, while he held her in his arms, but that he found, and was pierced with them to the soul; — 'I cannot go, said he, and leave you thus.' — 'You must, — you must, reply'd she, — your presence, while this danger threatens you, is much more terrible to me than your absence can be.'

He then told her, that a boat waited to carry him that night to Greenwich, — that he should take a post-chaise

chaise from thence to Dover, and hoped to be in Calais before that time the next day: — on hearing this, she in a manner forced him from her arms, and never was there a more tender, tho' hasty parting, than between those two so equally loving and beloved.

### CHAP. IX.

*Is inserted for no other purpose than merely to gratify the curiosity of the reader.*

**T**HE event which once more separated our lovers is so interesting a nature, that I believe there are but very few who will not be desirous of knowing those particulars concerning it which Jemmy had no opportunity of relating to his fair mistress, in the short time his safety allow'd him to stay with her.

But first, — as some people may be apt to think that Miss Chit, in making the discovery she had done, had in view to the consequences which ensued; and that in men's spite to Jemmy for not loving her, and to Belpine for having imposed upon her, she had taken this method of revenging herself on both; — in justice to her character must therefore beg leave to observe, that if this had been the case, she would rather have chose to have wrote the whole matter to Jemmy, with whom she was acquainted, than have gone in person to a lady to whom she had never spoke in her whole life, and from whom she could not be certain of meeting a very candid reception.

On hearing herself accused in the manner she had been by Mr. Morgan, and not doubting but that Jenny, the party most concerned, had been equally severe upon her on that occasion, she came, in the heat of her passion, to clear herself to that lady from the imputation of a vanity of which she was indeed not guilty; and to convince her, by relating the whole proceeding of Belpine in this affair, that she neither was, nor ever imagined herself her rival in Jemmy's affection.

It is true, that on seeing him there she might have forbore making any mention of Belpine, or the business of which she came; — but then, what other excuse could she have made to Jenny for this visit, at least she was not at that time prepared with any, so that it must be allowed that the mischief she did sprung more from inadvertency than design?

As for Jemmy, no body, I believe, will either wonder at or condemn his just indignation, on finding himself thus treacherously dealt with, by a person he had loved and so much confided in; — the laws both of honour and of nature obliged him to demand some satisfaction for the injury that had been done him; and he must have been little of a lover, and indeed little of a man, not to have presented it in the manner he did.

Fired with a rage impossible to be express'd, he had not patience to wait the dull formality of a challenge; but the moment he left Jenny's apartment flew in search of that infamous traducer of his reputation.

As he knew most of the houses frequented by Belpine, he went from one to another enquiring for him, but without success, and was just going home in order to send him a summons to meet him the next morning, when in his way thither he saw, by the light of the lamps, for it was then dark, the person he had vainly sought for, coming out of a tavern with another gentleman arm in arm. — 'Belpine,' cried he. 'Jessamy, rejoin'd the other, What, left Bath so soon?' — 'Yes,' resumed Jemmy, — and must needs speak with you this instant.' — 'I was going to supper with this gentleman, said Belpine, but will put off my engagement if your business be of any importance.' — 'It is, reply'd Jemmy, and cannot be delay'd.'

Belpine perceiving by his manner of speaking that he had somewhat more than ordinary in his mind, and perhaps imagining it might be some new incident relating to Lady Hardy, excused himself to his friend for quitting him, and they went into the tavern and up into the same room where he, Belpine, and the other gentleman had been drinking.

The bottles and glasses were not yet removed, but as soon as they were so, and fresh wine brought in, — 'Now, my dear friend, your pleasure, said Belpine.' — 'To tell you that you are a villain! reply'd Jemmy, — a most consummate villain.' — 'A villain, sir, retorted Belpine.' — 'Yes, — I again repeat the name, cry'd Jemmy, — a villain, — a base incendiary, or you would not, by the most monstrous of all falsehoods, have defamed the character of one you call'd your friend, —  
' and

‘ and endeavour’d to break the bands of union between two hearts inseparably link’d by love and honour.’

Conscious guilt now stared this base man in the face, and assisted the reproaches of his injured friend; he affected, however, an intire ignorance of what he was accused of, and would fain have seem’d to take as only a jest what the other said to him.

But our hero was in too great a heat to endure this trifling; he told him that he had learned the truth of every thing from miss Chit; — that she was now with Jenny, and insisted that he should either go with him to those two ladies, — renounce all he had said, and ask pardon on his knees, or with his sword defend the injustice he had done.

To this he sullenly reply’d, that he knew of no obligation he was under to do either the one or the other. — ‘ Then you are a coward, — a scoundrel, and poltroon,’ cry’d Jemmy, and deserve to be used as such; — with these words he took one of the glasses, which the drawer had fill’d before he left the room, and threw it full in his face; — the other could not now be any longer passive, — both their swords were out in an instant, — they made several thrusts, and Belpine had the advantage of having the first hit by wounding his antagonist in the arm; but this slight hurt was soon return’d with double interest, — Jemmy making a furious push ran him quite through the body; — he fell immediately, crying out, ‘ — Oh! I am kill’d.’

Jemmy ran to him, but he spoke no more, nor shewed the least signs of life; on which he thought it behoved him to make the best of his way out of the house, which he did directly; though not without ordering a drawer, as he pass’d by the bar, to go up to the gentleman above.

After he had got out of that street he stood still awhile, to consider what course he should take in case Belpine was really dead; and on reflecting how much circumstances were against him, found it most adviseable to leave England, till he should hear whether the wound he had given him was mortal or not.

Having resolved on this, he called upon a surgeon of his acquaintance and directed him to go immediately to the Tavern where he had left Belpine, contenting him-

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with having his own arm, which had only a flesh wound, dressed and bound up by the apprentice.

He then went home and made his servants get every thing ready for his departure ; — they loved their master too well not to be very expeditious in executing his command ; and, indeed, as it was not likely but that what had happened would presently be known, there was no time to be lost ; — the danger he was in, however, would not prevent him from bidding adieu to his dear Jenny, as has been already said.

As for Belpine, he was not dead, nor speechless, as he had feign'd to be, but finding himself deeply pierced had fallen out of policy to prevent his enemy from giving a second blow ; — so apt are men of mean minds to judge of others by themselves.

A surgeon had been sent for by the people of the tavern before Jemmy's friend arrived ; — both these gentlemen coming almost at the same time examined the wound together ; but neither of them could pretend as yet to give his opinion how far it might be dangerous.

The condition he was in not permitting him to be put either into a coach or chair, they were obliged to lay him on a mattress, and cover'd close over with blankets, made him be carried by two fellows on a bier to his lodgings ; — both the surgeons immediately follow'd, saw him into bed, and gave exact directions in what manner he should be order'd till they should attend him again the next morning, which they did very early, as believing his case extremely dangerous.

To their care, and the secret remorse of his own conscience for having so justly incurr'd the misfortune now fallen upon him, we shall leave him for a time, and return to subjects more capable of affecting the heart of every generous reader.

## CHAP. X.

*Treats of divers things, some of little, some of greater consequence ; but none that will afford much matter of entertainment to those who read for no other end than merely to divert themselves.*

EVERY passion of the human mind gains double energy by our own endeavours to conceal it ; —  
like

like fire, which being smother'd for a time bursts out at last with greater violence; — Jenny, who had behaved with so much seeming resolution while Jemmy was with her, could not see him turn his back to leave her; she knew not for how long, and on so dreadful an occasion without falling into the extremest agonies; — all her moderation, almost all her reason, forsook her at this juncture. — ‘He is gone! cried she, he is gone! — perhaps for ever, and I am left to waste my youth in unavailing grief: — but what of that, — selfish that I am, — comparison of him; how small a share of pity is my due — His single loss is all I have to mourn, while he, dear unhappy wanderer, is driven at once from his native country, — from love, — from friendship, — fortune without any other companion than the dire reflection of having embued his hands in the blood of a fellow creature. — Belpine was wicked, continued she, but justice might have overtaken him without the guilt of him he had wrong'd. — Oh what is honour! — the impatience of indignities, as the poet calls it.’

This raging fit of virtue in the soul,  
This painful burthen, which great minds must bear,  
Obtain'd with danger, and possess'd with fear.

This was the manner in which the generous and truly amiable Jenny lamented the accident that had happened — she wept not for the absence of her lover, but for the occasion that enforced it; — such was the delicacy of her soul, that his real infidelity would not have inflicted on her the thousandth part of those agonies she now endured on his having so fatally resented the aspersions; and so dear was he to her, that she would have wish'd to find him even unfaithful rather than unhappy.

It might perhaps be too affecting, though all that could be said would be far short of the truth of what she suffer'd during this whole cruel night; — the morning however, brought her some consolation; — she heard that Belpine was not dead, and to find that he had not been kill'd upon the spot, as Jemmy had imagined, affording her some hopes that his wounds might not be mortal, gave her as much satisfaction as a person in her circumstances was capable of feeling.

The whole adventure being presently blazed abroad

all her friends, and more of her acquaintance than, at that time, she wish'd to see, came to visit her, and make their compliments of condolance ; — among the number of the former were lady Speck, miss Wingman, mr. Lovegrove, and sir Robert Manley. After having express'd their concern for the accident, as it might give mr. Jessamy much trouble, especially if his antagonist should die, they told her that lord Huntley was to give them a concert that evening upon the river, and would again have persuaded her to have accompanied them, in order, as they said and really meant, to divert those melancholy thoughts which could not but rise in her mind on what had happen'd.

It is not to be imagined that she gave the least ear to so unseasonable an invitation ; but they continuing to press her with a great deal of earnestness to accept it ; — ' Oh,' said she, bursting into tears, which hitherto she had restrain'd in their presence, — ' can you think me capable of making one in a party of pleasure, while the liberty, perhaps the life of him ordain'd to be my husband is in danger ? — No, — till I know him safe, music would be discord to my ears, and every thing that gives joy to others add to my affliction.'

On hearing this, sir Robert Manley could not forbear breaking into a kind of rhapsody, — ' Happy mr. Jessamy, cried he, by his very misfortunes rendered yet more blest in the proofs of such exalted tenderness.'

Mr. Lovegrove said little less in praise of her constancy and generosity ; and the ladies afterwards gave over urging her any farther on the subject they had done, but employ'd the whole time they staid with her in discourses more suitable to her present humour.

But what was most of all obliging to her, was a promise the two gentlemen made of taking care to inform themselves, from day to day, of the true condition of Belpine's wounds, and letting her have an exact account, so the end she might transmit it to mr. Jessamy, and enable him the better to judge what course he had to take.

Several others of her acquaintance, who hearing what had happen'd, came to visit her on that occasion, and those among them who were most apprehensive on Jemmy's

my's account, forbore to speak their sentiments in her presence ; but, on the contrary, all join'd to comfort her with hopes which they were far from entertaining themselves ; — so that she pass'd this night with somewhat more tranquility than she had done the preceding one.

Between her broken slumbers, however, a thousand melancholy reflections return'd upon her mind ; — her thoughts pursued the dear unhappy fugitive in his wanderings, they painted him to her troubled imagination in the most forlorn and pitious moving figure, thus traveling by night, and exposed to dangers almost equal to those from which he fled ; — nor when her eyes, doubly fatigued with tears and watching, were closed again to sleep, did the sad ideas intirely quit her head.

The next day brought with it something which threw her into fresh agitations, — she was no sooner up than her maid presented her with a letter, which had been left for her by a footman sometime before she had quitted her bed, she having lain that morning longer than was her usual custom.

She was a little surprized as not knowing the hand of the superscription ; but, on her opening it, found it from miss Chit, and contain'd the following lines :

To miss JESSAMY.

MADAM,

“ I Am extremely sorry to send you any intelligence  
“ that may add to the disquiet I am sensible you are  
“ already under ; but there are some cases in which it is  
“ absolutely necessary that even the most painful truths  
“ should be reveal'd ; — you will find this relating to  
“ mr. Jessamy, is so ; and therefore do not condemn  
“ an over officiousness in me, what I now take the liberty  
“ to communicate.

“ One of the surgeons who attends Belpine has de-  
“ clared, that, according to the best of his judgment  
“ his patient cannot live ; on which a search-warrant  
“ is issued out against mr. Jessamy, it being already  
“ known that he has absconded from his house.

“ This, madam, my father heard last night at a coffee-house ; and moreover, that the people of the tavern, as well as a gentleman who it seems was with  
“ Belpine when he was met by mr. Jessamy, have offered

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"to depose that he took him aside, prevail'd with him to leave his company, and go with him into a private room, where he soon after left him for dead.

"I cannot pretend to any understanding in such matters ; but they say that in the eye of the law these circumstances will make the affair appear very black on the side of mr. Jessamy, and that the fact will not be consider'd as a rencounter, or a fair duel, but as a downright premeditated murder.

"As I cannot suppose that to whatever place mr. Jessamy is retired you are ignorant of it, I thought it highly proper to give you this intimation, to the end you may apprise him of the greatness of his danger, and warn him to keep extremely close ; — indeed I should never have forgiven myself, if by neglecting to do so any worse accident, than what has already happen'd, should ensue ; — but I will trouble you no farther, than to assure you that I am,

"With all due respect,

"Madam,

"Your most obedient,

"Humble servant,

"S. CHIT."

"P. S. My poor father is troubled beyond measure at this event, and swears that, old as he is, if he had sooner been convinced of the baseness of Belpine, which till now he never was, he would have taken upon himself to punish it."

Jenny had but just finish'd the reading this epistle, when she was convinced of the truth of the intelligence it contain'd, — the officers of justice came in, — produced their warrant, and one of them very civilly intreated her leave to do what, by virtue of their commission, they were impowered to have done without it.

She seem'd a little surprized notwithstanding, and said, with an air of some resentment, that it seem'd very odd to her that they should come to search her lodgings for a gentleman ; — to which another of them, more furly than he who had spoke first, reply'd, — that they had orders to search not only her lodgings, but all that house, and every other which mr. Jessamy had been known to frequent.

She said no more, but suffer'd them to pass wherever they

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She said no more, but suffer'd them to pass wherever they

they would, and they discharged their duty with so much diligence, as to leave no place unlook'd into, that was big enough to have conceal'd a much less person than him they sought for.

Though Jenny had nothing to apprehend on this score, yet the sight of these men, and the errand they came upon, was an extreme shock to her; but she presently received another yet greater, when the person with whom she boarded told her, without considering the consequence of what he said, that he was credibly inform'd that notice had been sent to all the ports to prevent mr. Jessamy from making his escape out of the kingdom.

These words struck her with such a horror, that she was very near falling into fits; and it was not in the power of all that both he and his wife could say afterwards to pacify her grief, or to make her be persuaded that mr. Jessamy must needs be in Calais before any orders to stop him could arrive at Dover.

They remonstrated to her, that if he travelled all night, as it was not to be doubted but he did, he would certainly reach the port by the next day at noon; and as there was always some one or other of the packets ready, might embark the same hour he came; — ‘ So that, my dear miss, cry’d he merrily, you may depend upon it your lover long before now has been regaling himself with good Burgundy, and some *Quelque-chose* or other, *a-la-mode de France*.’

She could not help allowing the reasonableness of his arguments; — but imagination, that creative faculty, which has the power to raise us to the utmost pinnacle of happiness, or sink us into the lowest depths of despair, form’d so many accidents which might retard her dear *Jemmy*’s journey, and render him too late to avoid the pursuit made after him; that she could not think she ought to flatter herself with the hopes of his being safe till she was positively assured he was so.

#### CHAP. XI.

*Contains some occurrences deserving the attention of the reader.*

IN a continual rack of thought, to which all the persuasions of her friends could not give the least inter-

mission,



mission, did the fair heroine of this history pass her nights and days, till Jemmy, being safely arrived at Calais, sent her the following epistle:

To miss JESSAMY.

My for ever dear, dear JENNY,

“THE concern I saw you under on my departure has hung more heavy on my spirits than even the occasion that enforced it; but I assure you that none of your commands have been lost upon me, I have taken all the precautions that human-prudence could suggest not to render your kind wishes unavailing, and preserve a life which I am so happy as to know you set some value upon.

“The date of this will inform you that I have now reach’d an asylum, from whence it is not in the power of my enemies to snatch me; — but perhaps, after all, I might have spared your tender heart the cruel alarm I have given it, and myself the trouble of coming hither: — since I left London I have sometimes been tempted to hope that Belpine is not dead, and that it was no more than a swoon in which I left him; — if so, with what transport shall I soon return to thank my dear Jenny for all her unequall’d goodness?

“It is you, — and you alone, — my everlasting charmer, — that can make either my life or liberty a blessing; and when this cursed affair is once over, I shall then doubly taste the sweets of both; — for oh, — my soul, — I now feel that the apprehensions of being deprived of you, are infinitely more terrible to me than those of becoming an exile, — an outlaw, — a vagabond.

“But I will not turn the eyes of my imagination that way; — my reason, my resolution faulter at it, — and as Otway says,

Madness lies there, and Hell is in the thought.

“I will rather endeavour to believe the best, and that the first intelligence I receive from England will intirely banish these sad ideas from my mind; — but whatever I suffer, or shall hereafter suffer, I beg my dear Jenny will exert all her fortitude to repel the invasions of an over much grief and pity; — let your answer to this assure me, that you bear with moderation this

" sudden turn in our late blest condition, which is the  
 " only consolation can at present be received by him  
 " who is,

" With a love unutterable,

" Soul of my soul,

" Your most faithfully,

" And most passionately

" Devoted lover and servant,

" J. JESSAMY."

" P. S. In the distraction of my thoughts I had like to  
 " have sent this away without informing you where  
 " an answer might find me, — pardon therefore the  
 " wildness of my brain, and direct for me at monsieur  
 " Grandfins, the Silver Lion in Calais."

The joy which fill'd the affectionate heart of Jenny,  
 on finding her dear Jemmy had so happily avoided all  
 the pursuit might be made after him, was so great, that  
 for a time it intirely dissipated all her other anxiety.

But the ease she enjoy'd was momentary, — all the  
 information the enquiries that her friends could procure  
 was, that though Belpine was not dead, he was far from  
 being out of danger, and the consideration on what con-  
 sequences his death must produce, in case his wound  
 should prove mortal, render'd her incapable of enjoying  
 any lasting or perfect satisfaction.

It cannot be supposed that she contented herself with  
 once perusing a letter she had so much languish'd for; —  
 she read it over and over, and the oftener she did so, the  
 more a flood of tenderness poured in upon her soul; but  
 the reader will be better able to judge, by her own words,  
 of the disposition she was in, than by any description I  
 am able to give of it.

After having well weigh'd what apprehensions they  
 were which seem'd to give him the most pain, she thought  
 herself oblig'd, both by love and gratitude, to make use  
 of her utmost endeavours to remove them, as will be  
 seen in the answer she gave to his letter, which was wrote  
 in the following terms :

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

" My very dear JEMMY,

" I Congratulate you on your fortunate arrival at Ca-  
 " lais ; — you cannot more rejoice on finding yourself

"

" in a place of safety, than I have done in the knowledge  
 " that you are so ; — I have also the pleasure to acquaint  
 " you, that Belpine still lives, — I wish I could lengthen  
 " the intelligence by adding, that there are hopes of his  
 " recovery, but that is a satisfaction as yet deny'd us.

" But wherefore, my dear Jemmy, do you wound  
 " my heart with apprehensions for which you have not  
 " the least ground ; — do you know so little of your  
 " Jenny as to believe that any change of circumstances  
 " can change her sentiments in regard to you ? — No, —  
 " if the vain supposition of losing me disturbs your peace,  
 " henceforth be perfectly at rest ; for be assured, that  
 " wherever you are I will be.

" Take not this as a flight of sudden passion, which I  
 " may hereafter be tempted to repent of and retract, but  
 " as the firm and determinate resolution of my soul,  
 " founded on the principles of honour, of duty, and of  
 " justice, as well as inclination.

" Love for each other, my dear Jemmy, was the first  
 " lesson taught us in our most early years, and I have  
 " too long been accustomed to the practice, to be capa-  
 " ble of swerving from it — should therefore the fate of  
 " Belpine, which Heaven forbid, be such as our worst  
 " fears suggest, you have no more to do, on the news of  
 " it, than to go directly into Paris, and provide a proper  
 " place for my reception ; — and there, if you continue  
 " to desire it, the English Ambassador's chaplain may  
 " fulfil the engagement made for us between our parents.

" Farewell, — I flatter myself that you will find some  
 " satisfaction in the assurance I now give you of being,

" With all the tenderness,

" You can wish or expect,

" My dear Jemmy,

" Sincerely faithfully,

" And ever your's,

" J. JESSAMY.

" P. S. I must do our common friends the justice to  
 " let you know they are greatly affected at your misfor-  
 " tune, all of them, at least that I see ; — indeed if they  
 " were not, they would find little welcome from me. —  
 " Once more adieu, — I expect to hear from you again  
 " by the first post."

Jenny, not doubting but what she had wrote would afford great relief to the anxieties of her lover, found in that thought sufficient to calm those she had felt within herself; — such is the effect of a real tenderness, as to make us take pleasure in every thing that we imagine will give pleasure to the person beloved.

And now let those readers, who in the beginning of this history were apt to look on Jemmy and Jenny as two insensibles, acknowledge their mistake, and be convinced that flames which burn with rapidity at first are soonest wasted, and that a gentle, and almost imperceptible glow of a pure affection, when once raised up by any extraordinary incident, sends forth a stronger and more lasting heat.

I remember to have formerly read a little pamphlet, entitled, ‘Reflections on the different effects of love,’ which contains many pretty observations on the subject I am speaking of; but I know of none more just than this of Mr. Dryden:

Love various minds does variously inspire,

He stirs in gentle natures gentle fire,

Like that of incense on the altars laid;

But raging flames tempestuous souls invade;

A fire which every wind of passion blows,

With pride it mounts, and with revenge it glows.

It may easily be perceived, by those who consider the motives on which the events of this history depend, that our lovers were not thus stirred up by accidents relating merely to themselves, but by such as concerned each other; — Jemmy had not fought with Belpine but for the discontent and affronts which he thought his dear Jenny had suffer’d thro’ his base artifices; — nor would Jenny have discovered any part of the warmth she now did, had she not been invigorated by the perplexity and danger of her Jemmy.

Nothing certainly can be more truly worthy of admiration than the love, — the constancy, — the generosity, of this amiable lady, who at her years could so readily renounce her native country, — kindred, and all the amusements to which her youth had been accustomed, and resolve to live in a perpetual banishment, if by the death of Belpine, the man ordain’d to be her husband in

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his more prosperous circumstances, should now be reduced to the condition of an exile.

Nor was Jemmy, gay and unthinking as he has sometimes appear'd, at all inferior to his charming mistress, in giving her the most unquestionable and exalted proofs of the sincerity and disinterestedness of his passion, as the next chapter will declare.

## C H A P. XII.

*Recites a passage which will certainly be extremely agreeable to all the ladies ; it is much to be fear'd, however, that there are but very few of them who can, with any reason, flatter themselves with experiencing the like.*

JENNY, who had the mortification of hearing every day that Belpine grew rather worse than better, began to call to mind every trifling accident that had happen'd to give her any disgust in England, to the end that she might have the less love for it, and be more reconciled to the thoughts of leaving it for ever ; — she found it, indeed, a thing of no great difficulty to conquer all the reluctance she might at first have on that score ; — the society of the man she loved, and by whom she was so much beloved, was an over-balance for all she was about to quit for his sake, and her whole mind was now taken up with the manner in which she should order her affairs so as to be prepared to go whenever the circumstances of things should call her

Her resolution being settled, her thoughts by degrees became so too, and she now enjoy'd more serenity than she had known since the accident that drove Jemmy from her ; but the post not bringing her a letter as she expected, some part of her former discontents began to revive in her ; — she was, however too well assured of his punctuality not to impute this disappointment to some other cause than his neglect.

She soon found that she had done him no more than justice in this point ; — mr. Morgan came the next morning to visit her ; — as she had not seen him since she was a girl, his coming at this juncture a little surprized her, and he kept her in suspense for some time, by making her a thousand compliments, after the fashion of

old men, on the improvements he found in her stature and beauty, before he related to her the business which had brought him thither.

At last, tho' not till after many circumlocutions, by way of prelude, — ‘ I have a present for you, my pretty lady, said he ; I received a letter last night from my good friend Mr. Jessamy, and something inclosed for you, which he commission'd me to deliver into your own hands ; — here it is, continued he, giving her a packet, take it, I believe it will not be displeasing to you.’

‘ I have no apprehensions of receiving any thing that can be so, either from him or you, sir, reply'd she, you will therefore pardon my impatience to see what it contains.’ — ‘ Aye, — aye, cry'd he, read it by all means, — I would have you read it while I am here.’

He then retired to a window and took up a book while she opened the packet, in which was a large parchment, heavy with the weight of seals, and a letter from Jemmy containing these lines :

To miss JESSAMY.

“ **W**ITH what words, — O thou more than woman, — thou angel of thy sex, — shall I express that rush of joyous astonishment, — that extacy which on the reading your dear letter overwhelm'd my heart ! — Can you then resolve to leave your native country, with all the charms you once found in it ? — Can you do this for my unworthy sake, — consent to share my fate, and live in exile with your Jemmy ? — Yes, — I know you can, — you have said it, and will not promise without meaning to perform.

“ Thus transcendently blest in your affection, the goods of fortune would be below my care if you had no interest in them ; — nor would even life itself be of any estimation with me were it not dear to you — but as they both are yours, eternally devoted to you, they ought not to be neglected by me.

“ On my relating my affair with Belpine in all its unhappy circumstances, to a lawyer who happen'd to come over with me, he told me I ought to take proper methods for securing my estate, in case the wound I had given should prove mortal ; — I approved of his

“ advice,

"advice, and as there is no English attorney at Calais,  
"he has been so good as to draw up an instrument for  
"that purpose himself, — which is the same I now send  
"to you.

"You will find by it, my dear Jenny, that I am no  
"longer possess'd of any lands or hereditaments; — you  
"are the mistress of all that once was mine; — to whom,  
"indeed, should I commit my estate but to her who has  
"my soul in keeping?

"I have wrote to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Ellwood to  
"assist you in whatever cares may attend this accession,  
"and also to my steward and house-keeper to receive  
"their orders henceforward from you, who have now  
"the only right to command and to direct their services.

"What remittances I may have occasion for I shall  
"become your petitioner to grant, and doubt not but  
"your charity will extend itself as far as you think my  
"wants may reasonably require; — I am sure that I can  
"feel none the thousandth part so great as that of your  
"dear society, which, without my daring to ask, you  
"have already promised to relieve.

"I should be glad methinks, however, to know the  
"certainty of my doom; — that is, — whether I may  
"have hope of returning to England, or must content  
"myself with being a denizen of France; tho' in what-  
"ever place my lot is cast, fate will find it very difficult  
"to render me unhappy, while permitted to subscribe  
"myself,

"With the most pure and perfect passion,

"My dearest Jenny's,

"Fervently and unalterably

"Devoted servant,

"J. JESSAMY.

"P. S. I need not tell my dear Jenny with how much  
"impatience I shall long for the arrival of the next mail,  
"and every mail till we are so happy as to meet again."

Having read the letter, she unfolded the writing which  
accompany'd it, and found it was a deed of conveyance  
to herself of Jemmy's whole estate, both real and perso-  
nal; — as she knew not well the nature of these things,  
nor for what end this had been done, it threw her into so  
deep a resvery that she forgot Mr. Morgan was in the room.

But that gentleman, perceiving she had done reading, returned to the seat he had lately quitted, and, taking her by the hand, ask'd her with a smile what she thought of the gift her lover had made her. — 'Indeed, sir,' answered she, 'I know not what to think; and should be at a very great loss how to behave on the occasion, if I did not depend on being directed by one or other of the two worthy persons mentioned in Mr. Jessamy's letter.'

He then explained to her all she wanted to know, and concluded with some compliments on the confidence Mr. Jessamy reposed in her; — 'If ever I see him again,' said he pleasantly, 'I shall tell him that he relies much on his own merit to imagine he can secure the affection of so fine a lady after endowing her with a fortune which may entitle her to the addresses of the first nobleman in the kingdom.'

'He need not be very vain, return'd she, to be intirely free from all apprehensions on that score. — But, sir,' continued she, 'there is another danger which perhaps he has not thought of; — I have a kinsman, who, tho' a very distant one, is yet my heir in case I die unmarried, and would certainly, after my demise, seize on every thing which could be proved had been in my possession at that time.'

'Demise, cry'd Mr. Morgan, how can such a thought come into your head? — A virgin in her bloom talk of dying!' — 'Things more unlikely, sir, have come to pass,' said she, 'and I am for leaving nothing to chance, especially on such an account as this; — as the first proof, therefore, of that assistance Mr. Jessamy makes me hope for from you, I must intreat you will provide me an able lawyer that I may make my will, and by bequeathing back to Mr. Jessamy his own estate, with my whole fortune annex'd to it, unite both according as our parents always intended they should be.'

Mr. Morgan look'd on her with the highest admiration all the time she was speaking; but making no immediate answer she went on, insisting that he would do as she desired, to which he at last consented, and promised to bring an attorney with him in the afternoon; they had some farther conversation together, in which Jenny display'd herself

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herself so well, without aiming to do so, that he departed quite amazed and charm'd to find such generosity, such justice, and such prudence in a person of her years.

When she was left alone, and had leisure to reflect on what Jemmy had done, it did not seem at all strange to her that he should have reposed so much confidence in her, because she thought there was not a possibility for any woman in the world to be wicked enough to abuse such a trust; but she wonder'd at the haste he made to execute a deed of this nature, which she could see no necessity for on the score of what had passed between him and Belpine, at least as yet.

After a little pause, — ‘ It must certainly be, cry’d she, that the dear, the generous man, has caused this instrument to be drawn up merely for my sake, that if any unforeseen accident should snatch him suddenly from the world, I should then remain in an undisturbed possession of all he left behind; — no other motive can have induced him to act in this manner; and it was only the secret sympathy of my soul with his that has put it into my head to make a will in his favour.’

It pleased her to think she had found a way to be even with him in his tender care, and longed for the return of Mr. Morgan, that she might put in execution what she had devised.

That gentleman came in the afternoon, and according to the promise she had exacted from him, brought with him an able lawyer of his particular acquaintance, whom, as soon as the first civilities were over, she immediately set to work upon the business for which she had desired his presence.

The writing being intirely finished in all its forms, and witnessed by Mr. Morgan and the people of the house, whom Jenny had ordered to be call’d up for that purpose, she deposited it in Mr. Morgan’s hands, desiring him to keep it till she should die, unless some accident should oblige her to demand it back; — this he assured her he would do, still affecting to smile, though admiring within himself a precaution so uncommon in a young lady.

But whatever either he or his friend the lawyer might think of her on this occasion, they were afterwards convinced, by the vivacity and sprightliness of her conversation

sation and behaviour, during the whole time they continued with her, that it was not by any melancholy vapours she had been instigated to the step she had taken, and which appear'd so extraordinary to them, as indeed it well might do to persons who never had an opportunity of being acquainted with the greatness of her mind.

## C H A P. XIII.

*Affords less matter either of instruction or entertainment than many of the former; though perhaps more of both than can be found in some other late histories of the same nature with this.*

**H**OW preferable are the enjoyments of the mind to those of the body! Persons of a truly delicate way of thinking find a much greater pleasure in their own contemplations, on a delightful subject, than those of less refined ideas are capable of tasting in the utmost gratification of the senses.

Our amiable Jenny felt a more perfect satisfaction in the proof she had received of her lover's affection, and in that she had just shewn of her own for him, than she had ever known when with him, and no cross accident had interven'd to oblige either of them to exert, and display their mutual tenderness.

She was in a most delightful situation of mind on this occasion, when Mr. Morgan made her another morning visit, on a business which he doubted not but would greatly add to her contentment, — it was this:

The sincere good-will he had towards Jemmy had made him indefatigable in his endeavours to find out the true state of Belpine's condition; — he had gone and sent several times to the house where he lodged, without being able to get any satisfactory account, sometimes being told one thing, and sometimes another; — they even refused to let him know who were the surgeons that attended him; — this however he got intelligence of from the people of the tavern where the accident had happen'd — the first to whom he applied seem'd a little uneasy at the questions he put to him, — made very short and evasive answers, the plainest of which was, — 'That if the gentleman lived, it would be a miracle.'

Mr. Morgan, not contenting himself with this, went directly to the other, who was the same that had been sent by Jemmy, and whom he found of a much more communicative disposition, tho' less able to give him the information he desired; — he said, that on examining the wound, he had thought it a very bad one, but when he went the next morning to visit Mr. Belpine, he was told by somebody about him that there was no need of his attendance, and that he was not permitted to stay in the room even while the first dressings were taken off, tho' he had earnestly requested it. — Mr. Morgan then ask'd him, if he apprehended the wound to be mortal, by what he had seen of it at first. — 'I then thought it so, reply'd the surgeon, for had it been as I imagined, he must have dy'd in twelve hours; — but as he has lived till now, I think I may safely pronounce him out of danger, except a fever takes him.'

He then went on, and gave so many reasons, from the structure of the human body, to prove that if Belpine's wound had been mortal, he must have died long before the time which had elapsed since his receiving it, that the hearty old gentleman was quite convinced, and run immediately to make Jenny partaker of the joyful news.

She was, indeed, extremely pleased; but said, she could not conceive what motive should induce Belpine or his friends to give out that he was still in danger if he was not really so. — 'Spite, cry'd Mr. Morgan, nothing but spite, — as my friend Lee somewhere has it:

Spite, by the Gods, proud spite, and burning envy.

'I see into his design, continued he, as well as if I were of his cabinet council; — the venomous revengeful rascal thinks, as long as he can make people believe his life is despair'd of, Mr. Jessamy will be obliged to keep out of the way; but he may be out in his politics, the surgeon assures me that he will depose upon oath that the wound is not mortal; and if so, Mr. Jessamy may come over as soon as he pleases, — bail will be taken for him.'

'Ah, sir, let him not trust to that, cry'd Jenny hastily, and I beseech you do not advise him to it when you write.' — 'I advise him, madam, answer'd he, not I, indeed, — I shall only tell him what I think, — he may do as he pleases.'

'You

‘ You may be certain, sir, resumed she, that I should greatly rejoice in mr. Jeffamy’s return, if he could come without any hazard either of his life or liberty ; — but you must pardon me if I am not altogether so sanguine in this matter as you seem to be : — I am apt to hope and believe with you, that Belpine is not in so dangerous a way as is pretended ; — but then, methinks, we ought not to build too much upon the asseveration of this surgeon, whose judgment we cannot be sure is infallible.’

Mr. Morgan was about to say something in answer to this but was prevented, Jenny’s servant open’d the door instantly, and told her that lady Speck was just coming up stairs, on which he took his leave for that time.

After the usual salutations at a first meeting were over, and they had seated themselves, — ‘ If the heart is to be judged by the countenance, said lady Speck, looking earnestly on her fair friend, I may hope, my dear, that yours is somewhat less depress’d than it has been of late.

On her speaking in this manner, Jenny made no scruple to repeat to her all she had been told by mr. Morgan in regard to Belpine’s condition, and also the reasons which both of them had assigned for his causing it to be reported so much worse than in effect it was.

‘ Belpine must certainly be one of the most mischievous fellows in the universe, said lady Speck, and since you have now got a more perfect intelligence of his situation, I may venture to let you know that nothing can be more terrible than the account given of it by his servant, both to sir Robert and mr. Lovegrove, who, I assure you, did not fail to make the enquiries they promised when they were here last ; — and it has been only because they were unwilling either to deceive you, or to be the bearers of an unwelcome truth, that they have deny’d themselves the pleasure of waiting on you for some days.’

Jenny express’d herself in the most grateful terms for the generous concern those gentlemen had seem’d to take in her affairs ; and then began to turn the conversation on some other topic ; but there was something in the behaviour of Belpine which appear’d so peculiar as well as base, in the opinion of lady Speck, that she could talk

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of little else all the time she staid, which indeed was not very long, her ladyship being in her deshabille, and in haste to go home to dress for dinner.

She was no sooner gone, than Jenny's servant acquainted her that a lady, who call'd herself Sophia, had been to wait on her. — 'Sophia, cry'd she hastily, — why then did you not shew her up?' — 'You had company, madam, answer'd he, and she said she rather chose to wait on you when you were quite alone, and that she would come again in the afternoon to see if you were so.'

If the reader has forgot this young lady he may have recourse to the second chapter of the first volume, where he will find her character at large; and now need only to be told that Jenny, who had not heard of her being in town, was extremely glad that she should have a person near her in whom she placed more confidence than in most others of her acquaintance.

The pleasure of this friend's return did not however make her forget it was post-day, and that she had an obligation to discharge which could not be dispensed with by any other; and therefore, to prevent any interruption which delay might occasion, sat down immediately and wrote the following lines:

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

My dear JEMMY,

"I Received the trust you reposed in me of which I shall  
 "be a very faithful steward; but I have just heard  
 "something which makes me hope you might have  
 "spared yourself that trouble; — your worthy friend mr.  
 "Morgan will write to you the particulars, and perhaps  
 "subjoin some advice, which tho' I am certain he means  
 "well, cannot consent you should comply with; — so  
 "much as I prize your presence I should tremble to be-  
 "hold you here while there remains even the most distant  
 "menace either to your life or liberty.

"A little time, of course, must put an end to our  
 "suspense, — till then therefore, I conjure you, content  
 "yourself with the assurance I have given you, and now  
 "again repeat, that if you cannot come to me, I will  
 "go to you, and endeavour, by every thing in my  
 "power, to soften the asperity of all other losses.

"I fear

" I fear, indeed, you pass your days in a manner un-  
 " comfortable enough, — without friends, — without  
 " acquaintance, — without any companion but your own  
 " melancholy thoughts, — nothing to please or even to  
 " amuse your mind : — I am ignorant of the place you  
 " are in, — I only know it is on the sea-coast ; — there,  
 " methinks, I see you often wandering, casting a wish-  
 " ing eye towards what you left behind, and almost  
 " cursing fortune for the deprivation. — Tell me, my  
 " Jemmy, does my fancy paint your situation such as it  
 " is ? — I shall rejoice to find myself deceived, and to  
 " hear that Calais is not wanting in matters of agreeable  
 " entertainment — believe you can give no account so  
 " welcome to me as that of your being perfectly easy ; —  
 " endeavour, at least, to make yourself so, I beseech  
 " you, till the circumstances of things permit you to be  
 " happy, and to make happy all your friends, particu-  
 " larly her who is,

“ With an unfeign’d affection,

“ Dear Jemmy,

“ Yours eternally,

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. I cannot close this without once more conjuring  
 “ you, not for your own sake but mine, not to think of  
 “ returning till we shall be well assured that Belpine has  
 “ left his chamber.”

She soon found how much she had been in the right to  
 lay hold of the first opportunity to prepare the above,  
 otherwise she might have been prevented from doing it  
 at all that day ; for Sophia, who had a great deal to say  
 to her, came very early in the afternoon.

#### C H A P. XIV.

*Contains a very strange and detestable instance of perfidi-  
 ousness and ingratitude, in a person of the most honourable  
 vocation.*

**T**HESE two young ladies, who from their childhood  
 had preserved an entire friendship for each other,  
 could not meet after an absence of many months without  
 the utmost demonstrations of affection on both sides ; —  
 after which Jenny gently reproached the other as having  
 been very remiss of late in writing to her, and that when-  
 ever

ever she did so her letters had been short, reserved, and such as ordinarily pass between persons who converse together merely through complaisance.

‘Your charge would be very just, said Sophia, had it been in my power to have acted otherwise than I did;—but, indeed, my dear miss Jessamy, I had nothing to write except such things as were utterly improper for me to communicate by the post;—I am now, however, continued she with a deep sigh, come to tell you all, as well as to take my everlasting leave.’

These words, and the manner in which they were delivered, threw Jenny into so great an astonishment, that she had not the power of asking an explanation of them, which the other perceiving, saved her the trouble of speaking and went on:

‘Yes, continued she, I shall very shortly be removed from all that ever yet have known me,—shall quit England as soon as the vessel that is to carry me is ready to put to sea, which I hope will be in a very few days;—nor, when you have heard my unhappy story, will you think it strange that I should be impatient to go from a place where I have received such cruel injustice as perhaps no woman but myself ever met with.

‘Heavens! of what nature?’ cry’d Jenny with some eagerness. ‘Of a most monstrous,—and, I believe, unprecedented one, reply’d she; but I will keep you no longer in suspense,—you shall at once be let into the secret of those wrongs I have sustain’d, and of the folly which exposed me to them.’

Finding Jenny made no answer, but was prepared to give attention to what she was about to say, she wiped off some tears, which, in spite of her endeavours to restrain them, fell from her eyes; and then began the recital she had promised in the following terms:

The history of SOPHIA.

“YOU may remember, my dear miss Jessamy, said she, in what a rage my brother flew out of the house after the ridiculous adventure you were witness of the last time you favoured me with a visit;—he then went no farther than to a gentleman’s seat about four miles distant; but from thence proceeded to London, where he continued full three months:—on his  
“ return

“ return he appeared very pensive and discontented,  
 “ which I at first imputed to the disappointment he had  
 “ received from the lady you saw; but I soon found it  
 “ arose from a quite different cause; — he had, it seems,  
 “ mortgaged the best part of his estate to discharge some  
 “ debts he had contracted at play, the only vice I know  
 “ him guilty of, but to which he has always been too  
 “ much addicted; — he had the generosity, however,  
 “ to pay my fortune which was but five and twenty hun-  
 “ dred pounds, into the bank; he now gave me the bills,  
 “ and told me that he must go and live in the southern  
 “ parts of France till he had retrieved his circumstances,  
 “ and that he had spoke to a gentleman about letting his  
 “ house; but added that I should be welcome to stay in  
 “ it, and have the use of every thing till a tenant could  
 “ be found, if I chose to do so. — This offer, having my  
 “ own reasons for it, I gladly accepted of; — he had  
 “ before prepared every thing for his departure, and in  
 “ four days left me to myself.

“ You will doubtless wonder that I should chuse to  
 “ remain in a great lone house without any companion,  
 “ and be at the expence of keeping two maids and a man  
 “ servant, which the income of my little fortune could  
 “ ill afford, rather than come to town, where I might  
 “ have been boarded in a genteel family and lived much  
 “ cheaper, and more agreeably in the opinion of every  
 “ body but myself. — I will tell you my reason for all  
 “ this, — it was love, — love, that fatal frenzy of our  
 “ sex, — that sure destruction of all that is dear to woman-  
 “ kind; — I ought to blush even at the remembrance I  
 “ ever was directed by it; much more to confess the  
 “ shameful folly.

‘ Hold, my dear Sophia, cry’d Jenny interrupting  
 ‘ her, — take care what you say; — mr. Dryden was  
 ‘ certainly as good a judge of human nature as you can  
 ‘ pretend to be, and he tells us that  
 Love’s an heroic passion, which can find  
 No room in any base degen’rate mind;  
 It kindles all the soul with honour’s fire  
 To make the lover worthy his desire.

‘ And I am of opinion that a virtuous love, such as I  
 ‘ doubt not but yours was, ought never to be repented  
 ‘ or ashamed of.



"I allow the truth of what you say, answer'd Sophia; but then it must be a love conducted by prudence, and for a worthy object; — mine, alas, had neither the one nor the other of these excuses to plead in its defence, — as you will presently be convinced.

Here she stopp'd to give passage to some sighs which had been labouring in her bosom; — after which, growing a little more compos'd, she went on in the prosecution of her narrative.

"While my brother was at London, resumed she, I unfortunately, as it has proved, happen'd into the acquaintance of a young officer in the army, call'd Willmore, — the first time I saw him was at a gentleman's house about a mile distant from ours, where I sometimes visited: — tho' there were several other ladies in company he seem'd to take a particular notice of me, and I could not avoid doing so of him; — he has, indeed, every thing in his person that can attract the eye and captivate the heart, — he is handsome, — well-made, — genteel, — has abundance of wit and vivacity, and tho' he talks a great deal never speaks but to the purpose.

"When I took my leave, he would needs see me home, tho' I had a servant with me, and but three little fields to cross; — I refused this offer, but must own I could not help being very well pleas'd that he persist'd in it: — In fine, he came home with me, and tho' as he walk'd he entertain'd me only with common subjects of conversation, yet he treated them in such a manner as appear'd to me very agreeable.

"Among other things, happening to tell me that he had lodgings at Windsor, and was almost always there when not oblig'd to be with the regiment, I said it was a thing seldom heard of, that a gay young gentleman like him should prefer a little country town to the pleasures of London; — to which he reply'd, that hunting and reading were his favourite pleasures; — 'The one, said he, I frequently take with very good company; and the other I am here more at liberty to indulge myself in than I could possibly be in London: —' He then ask'd me if I took any delight in the latter of these amusements, and on my answering that I did, — 'Because, madam,

“ madam, rejoin’d he, I have all the public papers and  
 “ new pamphlets constantly sent down to me as they come  
 “ out, and if you will give me leave will wait on you with  
 “ such of them as I shall find worthy your perusal.

“ Though I plainly saw this was no more than a pre-  
 “ tence to visit me, yet I thought it so handsome a one,  
 “ and afforded me so good an excuse for granting him  
 “ the permission he desired, that I hesitated not to tell  
 “ him, that I should readily accept, and be thankful for  
 “ the favour he mention’d.

“ This was the method he took to introduce himself;  
 “ — he was almost every day bringing me some new  
 “ book or other; and, in return for this civility, I lent  
 “ him such as he chose to read out of my brother’s col-  
 “ lection, which is esteem’d a very good one; — at first  
 “ our conversation turned chiefly on the subjects with  
 “ which we had mutually obliged each other; but after  
 “ a few visits he threw off that constraint he had hitherto  
 “ been under, and profess’d himself my lover.

“ As I have already confess’d the liking I had of his  
 “ person, you will not expect to hear that I received the  
 “ declaration of his passion with any disdain, — on the  
 “ contrary, I am afraid I listen’d to it with too visible  
 “ an approbation; — but however that might be, — for  
 “ indeed I do not well remember how I behaved at that  
 “ time, — all that I know is, that I forbade not his addresses.

“ I will not give you the trouble of hearing, nor my-  
 “ self the confusion of repeating, how very easily I was  
 “ won to give credit to every thing he said in relation to  
 “ his pretended passion, for such you will find it was,  
 “ and not only pretended for the sake of gallantry and  
 “ amusement, but for the carrying on a design the most  
 “ low, base, and dishonourable that ever enter’d the  
 “ heart of man, much less of a gentleman, to conceive  
 “ or put in practice.

“ It was in the height of his courtship that my brother  
 “ came home; — the hurry of his affairs, — the discon-  
 “ tent he was in, and the short time he staid, hinder’d  
 “ me from saying any thing to him concerning my new  
 “ lover; but you now may perceive the motive which  
 “ induced me so readily to embrace the offer he made me  
 “ of staying in his house after he was gone; — I knew  
 “ Willmore

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"Willmore was fond of the country, and I dreaded lest I should see him less frequently in town; — fool that I was, not to consider that a man who truly loved would follow me any where.

"As we grew more familiar in conversation, I found he was much better acquainted with the circumstances of our family than I could have thought he was; — among other things, he one day mention'd my brother's late miscarriage, and ask'd me, with some concern, whether it had been of any prejudice to my fortune; — I told him that it had not, and related to him how tender he had been of me in that point, — at which he seem'd extremely pleased, and said no more upon that subject.

"Soon after this he went to London, where he staid upwards of a week, — a much longer time than ever he had done since my acquaintance with him; — the same day which brought him again to Windsor brought him also to visit me; but though his expressions were, I think, more endearing and more passionate than ever they had been, I perceived there was a certain air of melancholy about him, which very much affected me; — I could not forbear taking notice of it to him, and ask'd him, with more tenderness than perhaps became me, if any ill accident had happen'd to him since he left me; — he told me not any; — but added, that he had been a little vex'd, and could not help thinking himself a very unlucky fellow.

"On my farther desiring him to let me know the occasion of his chagrin, he told me — that he could not content himself with the condition of a subaltern; — that he had never enter'd into the army but with the hope of rising in it; — nor had accepted of a lieutenancy, which was the commission he then bore, but with the expectation of being soon a captain." — Now, said he, just at this juncture an old officer has got leave to sell out, — and I might have his commission for about a thousand guineas and my own in exchange, which I have a gentleman ready to purchase. — This it is, my dear Sophia, added he, that has so much disconcerted me; for though I have offer'd a very large premium, and my bond to pay the money quarterly, I can no way raise it.

"Bless

“ Bless me, cry’d I, have you no friends, — no relations who on such an occasion would not advance that sum ?” — ‘ Yes, several, answer’d he, who would do it for a word speaking ; but they are all of them either out of the kingdom, or at their country seats I know not how far off, and the thing must be done immediately or not at all ; and Heaven knows whether I shall ever meet with such an opportunity again.’

“ Indeed, my dear miss Jessamy, continued she, I thought it a great pity that any man, much more the person I loved and intended to make my husband, should lose so considerable an advantage through the want of what was in my power to supply him with ; — I did not consider much on the matter, but stepp’d to my cabinet and took out Bank bills to the amount of a thousand pounds, which I put directly into his hands,” — ‘ There, mr. Willmore, said I, is the sum you stand in need of, and I hope it will not come too late to lay out in the purchase you mention.’

“ Tho’ I believe he saw enough into my weakness to expect I would do as I did, yet he seem’d equally surprized as transported with it,” — ‘ Well, my dear Sophia, cry’d he, kissing my hand, — this is generous indeed, and truly like yourself ; — but I hope, continued he, you will soon consent to reap some part of the benefit of the favour you have conferr’d ; and, as promotions in the army must come by degrees, who knows but you may one day see your lover, — I flatter myself long before then your husband, at the head of a regiment instead of a company !’

“ I reply’d, that I wish’d him success for his own sake, and as to what related to myself we would talk of that hereafter ; — he then told me that he would go to London very early the next morning, and at his return bring with him a bond in exchange for the bills I had obliged him with,” — ‘ which, added he with a gay air, if you should not think sufficient, I am ready to give you my person as a collateral security.’

She was in this part of her story when the tea equipage, that important article of a lady’s drawing-room, was brought in, on which she was obliged to break off till it should be removed.



## C H A P. XV.

*Is only a continuance of the same story.*

THE ladies having finished their little regale, and the gentleman-usher of the ceremony withdrawn with his tea-kettle and lamp, Jenny began to testify some impatience for the knowledge of an event which as yet she could have no other room to guess at than by the exclamations of Sophia.

"If I had not been infatuated, to a degree beyond whatever woman was, resumed that Lady, I must have seen that whatever Willmore pretended, his head was much more taken up with the thoughts of his commission than of his passion for me; for after the first retributions were over, he talk'd of little else during the whole time he staid.

"He took his leave, however, in a manner tender enough, and I remained perfectly satisfy'd with his behaviour, as well as with myself for what I had done: — so high an idea had I both of his love and honour, that when, instead of seeing him again in five or six days, as he had made me expect, I heard nothing of him in three whole weeks, I was far from entertaining the least suspicion of him, nor felt any other alarms than what proceeded from my fears that some ill-accident might have befallen him.

"But at last he removed all my apprehensions on that score by sending me a letter, or rather billet, containing these lines:

To miss SOPHIA \*\*\*\*\*.

"MADAM,

"I Have at last accomplish'd my affairs, which took me up more time and expence than I imagin'd; — all is now over, however, and there remains but one thing more to make me compleatly happy: — I shall be at Windsor in a few days, and will then give myself the pleasure of waiting on you, till when, believe me,

"With great respect,

"Madam,

"Your most humble, and

"Obedient servant,

"G. WILLMORE.

"You

“ You look astonish’d, my dear miss Jessamy, pursued she, perceiving Jenny did so, and well, indeed, you may — Did ever man write such a letter to a woman he court-  
 “ ed, — who he knew loved him, and from whom he had  
 “ received so great an obligation? — yet — would you think  
 “ it possible! — not even this open’d my blinded eyes; —  
 “ I doubted not but by the one thing remaining to make  
 “ him completely bless’d, he meant the consummation  
 “ of our marriage; and the kindness of that expression  
 “ sufficed with me to atone for all the cold indifference  
 “ of the rest.

“ Eight days more, from the time of my receiving this  
 “ epistle, were elapsed without my seeing or hearing any  
 “ thing farther of him; — but when, at the expiration of  
 “ that time, he came, whatever doubts might have been  
 “ beginning to rise in my mind, they all vanish’d as soon  
 “ as he appear’d, and were succeeded by a double portion  
 “ of satisfaction.

“ I know not whether it was owing to his being so long  
 “ absent from me, or whether the success of his affairs had  
 “ diffused a more than ordinary sprightliness through all  
 “ his air, but methought he look’d more charming, more  
 “ engaging than ever; — the passion he pretended to have  
 “ for me seemed also to be increased even to a romantic  
 “ height; and after telling me that his own lawyer being  
 “ out of town, and not chusing to employ any other, he  
 “ had not brought the bond he promised; — ‘ But what  
 “ occasion, cry’d he, eagerly kissing my hand, is there for  
 “ the formality of a bond, when you have my heart, — my  
 “ soul in your possession? — when myself and all I am, or  
 “ ever shall be master of, is entirely at your command, —  
 “ never happy till you accept the offer.’

“ In fine he continued to press me so closely on the ar-  
 “ ticle of marriage all that whole evening, that before  
 “ we parted I made him a kind of half promise; — and  
 “ to confess the truth, for I will hide nothing from you,  
 “ I was at that time so much softened by the artifices he  
 “ put in practice, that if I did not say positively, — I  
 “ would be his, — it was owing rather to my bashfulness  
 “ than want of inclination to comply.

“ Indeed

" Indeed when I came to reason with myself, I thought it would be a piece of silly nicety to keep him any longer in suspense; --- that his family, --- his person, --- his accomplishments, and the post he had now obtain'd, might intitle him to a woman of a larger fortune than I was mistress of; --- and that, putting love entirely out of the question, no body would condemn the choice I made of him.

" In a word, my dear, having thus fix'd my resolution, the next visit assured him of my consent, and I told him that I was ready to give him my hand as soon as every thing necessary for that ceremony could be prepared.

" I had often heard him, in casual conversation, express a great dislike of public weddings; and he now represented, that for ours to be so must infallibly be attended with many inconveniencies;" --- 'For besides, said he, the ridiculous bustle of drums, --- trumpets, --- epithalamiums, that always disturb the slumbers of people on their first going to bed together with a licence, there are so many young officers of my acquaintance, who would come the next morning to congratulate my happiness, as I know would be shocking to the modesty of my dear Sophia.

" Finding I approved of what he said," --- 'For the reasons I have mentioned, resumed he, Windsor would be the most improper place in the world, --- we both are so well known there, that the moment we are tack'd the bells would immediately proclaim what we had been about; the thing can be done no where with so much privacy as in London; --- and to tell you the truth, though perhaps you will laugh at my superstition, continued he, my father and mother were married at Ely chapel, --- their whole lives was a series of love and joy, --- and I should like, methinks, that my happiness should be fix'd at the same altar theirs was.'

" I could not, indeed, forbear rallying him a little on this whim, but replied, that I had not the least objection to the place he mentioned; but, on the contrary, should chuse that the ceremony should be performed there, rather than in any parish church whatever.

“ He then told me, that having flattered himself with  
 “ finding me no less just to his passion than I now had  
 “ been, he had already made some preparations which he  
 “ hoped would not be displeasing to me : ---- I asked him  
 “ of what nature, ---- to which he reply’d, that he had an  
 “ aunt, an excellent good old lady, whom he had made  
 “ the confidant of his courtship to me ; ---- that by the  
 “ character he had given her of me she approved highly  
 “ of the match, and that we should be welcome to an  
 “ apartment in her house, ’till we could take one for  
 “ ourselves, and get it fitted up for our reception.

“ To this he added, that she was a widow of a hand-  
 “ some jointure ; ---- that her eldest son had a large e-  
 “ state in Somersetshire, and her youngest was a cap-  
 “ tain in the Navy ; ---- that she had two daughters,  
 “ who were both unmarried and lived with her ; ---- that  
 “ they kept the best of company ;” ---- ‘ So that, my  
 ‘ dear, continued he, you will find you do not marry  
 ‘ into a family you will have any cause to be ashamed  
 ‘ of.’

“ He said a great deal more in praise of these relati-  
 “ ons, all which I took for gospel, and was so much  
 “ charmed with the character of my aunt, ---- that was  
 “ to be, ---- and two young cousins, that I almost long’d  
 “ to be with them ; and it was presently concluded be-  
 “ tween us that I should go with him to London the  
 “ next day ; ---- that he should introduce me to these  
 “ ladies ; ---- that he should leave me with them for that  
 “ night, and return in the morning with a ring and li-  
 “ cence, in order to put the last hand to the business of  
 “ his courtship.

“ Every thing being thus settled, as I then thought  
 “ much for my convenience and satisfaction, I slept  
 “ that night without the least forebodings of the mis-  
 “ chief that was just ready to fall upon me ; ---- about  
 “ eleven the next morning a chariot, by Willmore’s or-  
 “ der, came to the door ; ---- I told my maids I was go-  
 “ ing on some business to London, but should come  
 “ back in a few days, as I knew I was obliged to do,  
 “ on account of delivering up the keys of the house,  
 “ and all that was in it, to the person whom my brother  
 “ had



" had intrusted with the care of his affairs, so took nothing with me but some linnen and a wrapping gown ; --- I took up Willmore at the corner of a back lane, where he waited by appointment for me, and we drove directly to London.

" We alighted at the door of a handsome house in one of the streets near Hatton-Garden, and were immediately shewed up into the dining-room, where we found a grave old gentlewoman, whose appearance answered very well to the description Willmore had given of her ; --- he presented me to her with these words : " --- ' This, madam, said he, is the lady I spoke of, and who has at last consented to make me happy.' --- " She received me with a great shew of respect and kindness, but accompanied with a certain stiffness, which I thought had something of affectation in it ; but this I imputed merely to the time in which she had been educated, according to the silly notion, that people of the last age were less free in their conversation than those of ours.

" The room we were in was very genteely furnished ; but what most attracted my eyes, were the pictures of five or six young ladies, very different in their features and complexions, but all of them extremely handsome ; --- I could not forbear expressing my admiration of these pieces to the old lady, who told me that two of them were drawn for her daughters, and the other for her nieces and cousins ; and added, that she hoped one day to have the honour of seeing mine there ; --- I replied, that I should make but an ill figure among so many beauties, on which she made me many compliments not worth repeating.

" Chocolate and biscuits were the first things presented to us, and were soon after succeeded by a bottle of Madeira ; --- the old lady said, that she was delighted beyond measure ; that not being certain of my coming she was not provided in the manner she would have been for my reception ; and particularly that she had given her daughters leave to go on a party of pleasure with some persons of quality ; but added, that they would be at home in a day or two, and  
 " hoped

“ hoped her family would then be more agreeable to  
 “ me : ---- I was of her opinion, indeed, as to this last  
 “ article ; but could not avoid telling her, that nothing  
 “ could be wanting where she was : ---- this drew on so  
 “ many compliments in return, that I should have  
 “ been very much embarrass’d to reply, If Willmore,  
 “ the only thing I have to thank him for, had not given  
 “ a turn to the conversation.

“ Soon after lighting the candles supper was served  
 “ in, which consisted of several small dishes, all in a  
 “ a foreign taste ; when the cloth was taken away, and  
 “ bottles and glasses set upon the table, the old lady  
 “ began the king’s health in a bumper, ---- then another  
 “ to the prince of Wales, and a third to the duke of  
 “ Cumberland ;---- these having gone round, Willmore  
 “ ran to the side-board, fetch’d a large water-glass,  
 “ which filling to the brim,”---- ‘ Here is the noble  
 “ duke again, cried he, we cannot toast his health too  
 “ often ;---- here is to his royal highness, and prosperity  
 “ to the army, ---- may they increase and multiply till  
 “ every housekeeper in London and Westminster has at  
 “ least half a dozen of them quartered at once upon  
 “ him.’

“ I cannot say that I was pleased with any thing  
 “ which shew’d a tendency to the manifest destruction  
 “ of the constitution and liberties of my country ; but  
 “ thought myself about to be the wife of a soldier, and  
 “ that it would not become me to make any objection  
 “ ---- I only repeat these circumstances to you to let you  
 “ see what company I was among.

“ The night growing pretty far advanced, Willmore  
 “ began to talk of going home, and desired a coach  
 “ might be call’d ; but his kind relation told him, he  
 “ could not bear he should think of such a thing, ----  
 “ said, that as the girls were abroad he might lie in  
 “ their bed without the least trouble to any one in the  
 “ family, ---- reminded him that it was a long and very  
 “ ugly way from Hatton-Garden to his lodgings in  
 “ Whitehall, and bid him consider how many desperate  
 “ fellows lay in wait for the purses, and even lives of  
 “ gentlemen who expose themselves, as he would do, to  
 “ their villainous attacks ; ---- he seeming to laugh

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"all this, and insisting that a coach should be called, she renewed her remonstrances, and begg'd of me to second them; which I readily did, having heard such frightful stories of street-robberies, that I was in more real terror for him than she affected to be.

"I no sooner spoke than he pulled off his sword, and said my commands were not to be disputed, he would stay;"----- "But, madam, continued he, turning to the old lady, I am affraid we have kept you up beyond your hour."—"I am never weary of good company, answered she; but for this sweet young lady's sake, who may want repose after her journey, I think it may be proper for us to retire;"—"in speaking these words she rung her bell for a servant to shew Willmore to his chamber;—she would needs attend me herself into that allotted for me, and see me into bed; but whether she did this out of complaisance, or a far different motive, you will presently be judge."

Here the melancholy Sophia stopp'd to take breath; and as it is very possible the reader will be glad to do so too, I shall defer giving the catastrophe of this adventure till the next chapter.

There is a maxim which I have always thought worthy of being observed by every writer, that an old author has delivered down to posterity in these lines:

Too much of one thing the vex'd mind will cloy,  
It asks a relaxation e'en from joy.

## C H A P. XVI.

*Contains the sequel of Sophia's story.*

THO' the old lady, resumed Sophia, pursuing the thread of her discourse, shewed a most tender care in tucking the cloaths about me, and drawing close the curtains of the bed, I found it impossible, after she was gone, to compose myself to rest; ---- it was not the thoughts of what I was about to do, nor the step I had taken towards it, that kept me waking, for I accused myself not of the least imprudence

“ in that affair, nor once imagined that the condition  
 “ I was going to enter into would not render me perfectly happy ; but it was a strange mixture of ideas, which I then thought nothing to the purpose, and could not account for, but have since ascribed, and ever must ascribe, to the goodness of my guardian angel, which prevented me from falling into a state which must have deprived me of the power of resisting the worst mischief that could have happened to me.

“ Finding I could not sleep, the moon shining extremely bright, I got out of bed and throwing on my wrapping gown I went to the window which looked into a pretty large garden, the air was sweet and serene, and the beams of my favourite planet glittering among the trees and plants afforded a very delightful prospect, and filled me with solemn contemplations on the beauties of nature, and the bounties for which we are indebted to the Great Author of our being.

“ How long I should have remained in this pleasing reverie I know not, if I had not been disturbed by fancying I heard something behind me in the chamber ; --- on turning my head hastily about, in order to convince myself, I saw the figure of a man in a night-gown and cap, but could not distinguish the face, he being in the dark part of the room ; --- I shriek'd out, ‘ Hush, --- hush,’ said he advancing ; --- I then found it was Willmore ; and though less frightened than before, was equally astonished, --- Willmore, cried I, what brings you here ?

‘ I should rather ask, said he, what brings you out of bed at this unseasonable hour ? --- Come, --- come, my dear, --- pursued he, going to lay hold on me, --- let me replace these tender limbs where they will be exposed to less inconveniencies’ --- Stand off, --- rejoined I, --- and tell me what you mean by this intrusion ?

‘ Can a man intrude on what is his own ? cried he --- are you not already mine by love, --- and will not to-morrow make you so by law ? --- away then with this idle coyness ; --- there should now be no reserve between us ; --- be as wise as you are fair



‘and generously grant to night what to-morrow will give me power to seize ; — leave nothing for the parson but to confirm the gift your inclination has previously bestowed ; — this is the marriage of the souls, that of the hands is mere matter of form ; — this alone can assure me of your affection, and by consequence engage the continuance of mine.’

“ You will perhaps wonder, my dear miss Jessamy, pursued she, that I had patience to listen to so impudent a declaration, and did not rather attempt to put a stop to it by expressing the just abhorrence and disdain I had of his behaviour ; but, indeed, I was so much shock’d and confounded, that I believe, had he run on in the same strain even longer than he did, I should not have had the power to make the least reply.

“ Misconstruing, I suppose, my silence as a half approbation of what he had been urging, he took me in his arms, kiss’d, and press’d me to his bosom with the utmost vehemence, though I cannot say with any indecency. — I struggled, — burst into a flood of tears, but as yet was able to bring out no more than,” ‘ Oh mr. Willmore, I never could have believed you would talk to me in this manner.’

‘ I talk to you as a man of reason as well as a lover,’ answered he, and I would have you behave like a woman who has some share of both ; — I do not despair, however, added he, with an affected laugh, but to find my arguments will have more efficacy with you when we are in bed.’

“ While he was speaking these words he made an offer of forcing me from the place where I was standing, and this action it was which first roused me from that stupid lethargy which amazement at his first proceeding had thrown me into.” — ‘ Base man, cried I, unworthy of my least regard ; — be assured I will rather plunge myself headlong from this window than be exposed one moment longer to such audacious insults ; — therefore be gone, — leave me this instant, or I will raise the whole family with my shrieks,’

‘Mighty well, madam, said he with an air of derision, — ’tis mighty well; — I see the respect you have for me; — and now will let you into the secret of my acting in the manner I have done; — you must know, that being perfectly acquainted with the sham tenderness with which your sex frequently impose upon us men, I made a resolution never to give up my liberty to any woman who would not convince me of her love by permitting me to enjoy her before marriage.’

‘Monster,—villain,—cried I, and was going on, but he prevented me.’ — ‘No hard names, I beseech you, madam, said he, we men have as much vanity as you women can have,—and have as good a right too as yourselves to it; — we are as well pleased as you with being loved, and as malicious as you when we find we are not so; you take a pride in triumphing over us, when you fancy you have us in your power, and whenever we have you in ours we should be assisted not to make use of it; — you happen to be in mine, and tho’ you do not love me, nor I care two-pence for you, I shall not take all this pains for nothing, nor come here to lie alone to night.’

“In concluding this fine speech, — he flew upon me like a lion, and sure it was providence alone which in that dreadful moment inspired me with an unusual strength and courage; — I broke from the hold he had taken on me, and ran screaming into the next room; but that would have availed me little, if in pursuing me his feet had not tangled in the carpet, and he fell at full length upon the floor,—this gave me opportunity to pull down the bars of one of the windows, open the shutter, and throw up the sash; — the villain’s sword, which he had pull’d off on our persuading him to stay all night, lay just at my hand, I drew it, resolved to run it into his heart, if by no other means I could escape the violence he threatened; — he soon recovered himself from the accident and was with me; — I stood on my defence with his own weapon pointed against his breast, calling out at the same time,—a rape,—thieves, murder, — fire, and every thing that I thought

“ might

“ might alarm the neighbourhood ; — he would fain  
 “ have come near enough to me to have wrested the  
 “ sword out of my hand, but I kept it still waving, and  
 “ I could perceive he was pretty fearful of encountering  
 “ the point : — the noise I made, however, brought  
 “ the woman of the house up stairs, — she came run-  
 “ ning into the room with a candle in her hand, and af-  
 “ fected to be greatly surpriz’d to see Willmore there,  
 “ and myself in the posture I was.

“ Had I been in any other situation than such as I  
 “ then was, I must have laugh’d excessively at the sight  
 “ of this old beldam, just risen from her bed, her head  
 “ so cas’d with napkins that it almost rivalled the  
 “ size of her enormous belly, which, stripp’d of the  
 “ pent-house of her hoop-petticoat shewed itself in  
 “ its full magnitude, — the flannel bandages about  
 “ her gouty legs, expos’d by the shortness of a little  
 “ red petticoat, which scarce reach’d below her knees,  
 “ and her bow’d out back cover’d only with a thin  
 “ toylet, which I suppose she had snatch’d up in the  
 “ hurry of hearing me call out, rendered her cer-  
 “ tainly the most grotesque figure that ever my eyes  
 “ beheld.

“ Though it was doubtless this wretch’s fears of  
 “ being expos’d, and not any compassion for me, that  
 “ brought her to my relief, yet it must be own’d  
 “ her coming was very seasonable at this juncture,  
 “ as my spirits as well as strength must inevitably have  
 “ fail’d in a short time, and left me intirely destitute of  
 “ all defence.”

‘ By what vile arts soever I have been decoy’d into  
 ‘ your house, said I, as soon as I saw her enter, — I  
 ‘ expect to be protect’d in it, and if I am not so, no-  
 ‘ thing but your murdering me shall prevent my apply-  
 ‘ ing to a magistrate for justice.’

“ In spite of the confusion I was in myself, I could  
 “ perceive she was most terribly alarm’d at my words,  
 “ and the posture in which she found me.” — ‘ You  
 ‘ shall not be murdered, — you shall not be hurt,  
 ‘ cried she, in a hoarse trembling voice, — no harm  
 ‘ shall come to you in my house : — but pray

‘ what has happened to put you into this disorder ?’—  
 ‘ Ask that villain there, who calls himself your nephew,  
 ‘ return’d I, and thank him for the ill opinion I have of  
 ‘ every thing that is here.’

“ On this she took Willmore by the arm, and drew him  
 “ to a corner of the room, where they talked together  
 “ for the space of several minutes, but in such low and  
 “ grumbling accents that I could hear nothing of what  
 “ was said, till he, raising his voice a little, cried,”  
 ‘ — It is not that I care a straw for the girl, but I  
 ‘ hate to be baulk’d.” — “ She then spoke some-  
 “ thing to him very softly, on which he flung from  
 “ her, and went out of the room, casting a most mali-  
 “ cious look at me as he pass’d by.

“ As soon as he was gone,” — ‘ Dear madam,  
 ‘ said she, approaching me, I am afflicted to the last de-  
 ‘ gree that any thing should happen to disconcert you  
 ‘ in my house, — sure the captain was drunk ; but all  
 ‘ is over now he is gone up to his own chamber, and I  
 ‘ am sure, after what I have said to him, will not come  
 ‘ down again to night ; — therefore I beseech you  
 ‘ give me leave to help you into bed, — you will cer-  
 ‘ tainly get cold in the night air.’

“ I would have thanked her, for indeed I thought it  
 “ best to behave civilly till I had got out of that cur-  
 “ sed house, but I had not the power of speaking ; the  
 “ late terror I had been in being now a little subsided,  
 “ a flood of other mingled passions overwhelm’d my  
 “ Heart, I threw myself into a chair and was ready  
 “ to faint ; — seeing my condition she ran and  
 “ fetch’d a bottle of cordial water, which I took a  
 “ little of and found myself refresh’d ; — all she  
 “ could say, however would not persuade me to go into  
 “ bed ; — I told her that the greatest obligation she  
 “ could confer upon me, was to leave me to myself for  
 “ the remainder of the night ; — on which she re-  
 “ tired, after giving me, on my desiring it, the keys of  
 “ the dining-room and bed-chamber doors.

“ When I had secured myself as much as locks  
 “ could make me, I began to give a loose to emotions,  
 “ which, had they not found a vent in tears, must  
 ‘ certainly



" certainly have burst my heart and left me dead upon  
 " the spot ; but I will not prolong my already too te-  
 " dious a narrative with any description of what I suf-  
 " fer'd, I shall only say, that I continued in a condi-  
 " tion little inferior to madness till break of day  
 " without once reflecting that I was almost naked, or  
 " of the dangers to which my health was exposed.

" At last, however, I recover'd my senses enough to  
 " get on my cloaths, and to think of going from a  
 " place which had been the scene of so much horror to  
 " me: — hearing the maids were up, I ventured to  
 " unfasten my door and went down into the parlour,  
 " where I desired a wench that was sweeping the entry  
 " to call a coach for me, which she promised, but I  
 " found instead of doing so she went up directly to her  
 " mistress and told her my request, for the old beldam  
 " immediately came down, and asked me, in her fawn-  
 " ing tone, if I would not please to stay breakfast ;  
 " which I refusing. — I hope madam, said she, you  
 " will take nothing amiss from me, I am sorry to the  
 " very soul that you should meet with any thing in my  
 " house to disoblige you ; I do assure you I have rattled  
 " the Captain soundly about it, — he confesses he was in  
 " liquor, and will beg your pardon."

" I want no submissions from him answered I, nor will  
 " I ever see him more ; — but you may tell him, that  
 " I expect he will send me a bond for the money he bor-  
 " row'd of me, ' — — ' I am quite a stranger, cried she,  
 " to all affairs between you ; but I will go up directly  
 " and let him know what you say ; — — with these words  
 " she left me, I suppose with the intent she mentioned.

" The moment she was gone, a hackney coach came  
 " to the door, — — two young women gaily dressed,  
 " bolted out of it ; — — I presently knew them, by the  
 " pictures I had seen above, for those she called her  
 " daughters ; though, indeed their faces had nothing  
 " of that innocence which the painter had bestowed  
 " upon them ; — — they stared at me as they passed by  
 " the parlour door, but said nothing, and ran singing  
 " up stairs ; — — in fine — — they had all the marks of their  
 " profession about them ; and the very sight of them  
 " would

" would have convinced me, if I had doubted of it before, into what sort of a house the villain Willmore had seduced me.

" The coach that brought them not being yet gone from the door, I thought best to take this opportunity of going away, without waiting to hear what answer Willmore would give to my message by his pretended aunt, --- I was just stepping in when she came down, and told me that the captain was asleep at present, but that as soon as he awoke she would not fail to deliver to him what I had said. --- I replied, that it was no matter, I should find other means to send to him, --- and then bid the coachman drive to Piccadilly.

" The fatigue I had sustain'd the night before, and the hurry of spirits I was still in, render'd me very unfit to be seen by any of my acquaintance, I therefore resolv'd to go directly home, and as I knew not but the stage might already be set out, or if not so was equally uncertain of getting a place in it, I hired a chariot at Bullamor's: --- I found myself very much indisposed during all this little journey, and on my arrival grew so extremely ill that I was oblig'd to be let blood; but this was far from giving me any relief, I fell the next morning into a fever, in which I continued eleven days, without hope of recovery.

" If the extremeſt bitterness of heart, --- if shame and remorse for having ever loved a man so unworthy of it, --- if rage and disdain at the insults I had received, were capable of killing I could not have surviv'd --- yet so it was, --- my distemper left me at the expiration of the time I mentioned, and I regain'd my health, though, indeed, by very slow degrees, for it was near a month before I was able to quit my chamber.

" In all this time I received no bond, nor even letter from Willmore; therefore, as soon as I was fit to see company, I sent for a lawyer who was a friend of my Brother's, and when he was at home had often visited at our house; --- I told him my unhappy story, as far as relates to the money I had

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lent, and desired he would commence a a prosecution against Willmore on that account; --- but when he found that I had neither bond, promissory note, nor other obligation under his own hand writing, nor even any one witness of the loan, he assured me at once, that if the gentleman had not honour enough to pay the debt I must infallibly lose it, for law could give me no relief: --- perceiving I was extremely shock'd at what he said, he told me that if I would make a demand of the money in writing, he would carry it to him, and hear what answer he would make to it; --- though it was death to me to set pen to paper to such a villain, my unwillingness that he should run away with almost half of my fortune made me comply with this proposal, and I wrote to him as near as I can remember in these terms: "

To capt. GEORGE WILLMORE.

SIR,

I HAVE employ'd this gentleman to take such security as he shall think sufficient from you, for a thousand pounds lent you by me on the fourth day of last month; or, on your refusing to give it, to pursue such methods as the law provides to compel you to do justice to

" The il-treated,

" SOPHIA, \*\*\*

" The Lawyer approved of what I wrote, --- said he would argue with Willmore upon it, and as soon as he had done so, wait on me again with the result of their conversation.

" As he had told me, and I myself had always believed, that the recovery of my money depended wholly on the honour of the person to whom I had lent it, you may suppose I could not flatter myself with the least hopes of success, so was not disappointed, when, at the end of ten days, my lawyer re-

" turn'd

“ turn’d and gave an account, that the monster Will-  
 “ more had utterly denied the whole affair, and treated  
 “ both me and my demand with the greatest contempt.  
 “ I am very much surpris’d, madam, said this gen-  
 “ tleman to me, that you should venture so large a sum  
 “ of money in the hands of any one without an acknow-  
 “ legdment of the receipt in some shape or other, much  
 “ more in those of a person such as captain Will-  
 “ more ; ---- for to deal plainly with you, I have enqui-  
 “ red into his character, and find he is one of those  
 “ sparks who are distinguish’d by the name of Bucks, ---  
 “ a species of the creation who are scarce worthy of the  
 “ name of men, yet would fain be thought heroes ; ---  
 “ fellows that run about the streets with great clubs in  
 “ their hands, and swords by their sides as long as them-  
 “ selves, frightening women and children and affecting  
 “ to be rediculously terrible.”

“ I was a little picqued at this description of a man  
 “ who had once appeared but too agreeable to me ; ----  
 “ I said nothing, however, but that since it was so, I  
 “ must be content to lose my money ; --- I was willing,  
 “ notwithstanding, to make some farther enquiry what  
 “ could be done ; and accordingly, as soon as he was  
 “ gone, came to London, where I had the advice of  
 “ three several councils ; but they all agreeing in what  
 “ the first had told me, I was convinced that all attempts  
 “ to do myself justice would be in vain, and only serve  
 “ to expose me to the ridicule of the world.

“ England now grew hateful to me, and I took a  
 “ resolution to leave it, and throw myself into a new  
 “ scene of life ; --- a young lady of my acquaintance  
 “ being lately gone to a convent at Brussels, I wrote to  
 “ her, desiring she would make an agreement for me with  
 “ the superiors, which she having done very much to  
 “ my satisfaction, I discharged the servants in the coun-  
 “ try, gave up the house to my brother’s friend and have  
 “ now nothing to do but to depart.

“ In the midst of all these embarrassments, continued  
 “ she, I did not forget my dear miss Jessamy ; --- I was  
 “ twice to wait on you, but was informed you were at  
 “ Bath, and not expecting your return till the end of  
 “ the



“ the season, I despaired of the satisfaction I have now  
 “ enjoyed, both in seeing you, and in disburthening my-  
 “ self of that load of afflictions with which I have been  
 “ oppress’d since last I had the pleasure of your com-  
 “ pany.”

## C H A P. XVII.

*In which the reader is not to expect any extraordinary matters.*

SOPHIA could not put a period to her recital without letting fall some tears ; --- Jenny, who was all good nature, though she did not approve of her conduct in some parts of it, said many obliging things for her consolation ; ---and after expressing her detestation of the almost unexampled baseness and ingratitude of Willmore, told her, among other things, that tho’ she was extremely sorry to be deprived of her conversation, she could not but highly applaud the resolution she had taken of retiring into a monastery, as change of place, and a way of living so entirely new to her, might by degrees wear out the remembrance of whatever had been disagreeable to her in the past.

‘ Besides, said that amiable lady with a smile, you will perhaps hear of many adventures parallel to your own among the holy sisterhood ; for I have been told, and am apt to think with some truth, that the convent are greatly indebted, for being crowded as they are, to the inconstancy and ingratitude of the other sex.’

The other agreeing with her in this point, they were beginning to enter into a discourse concerning the swift transition which sometimes happens from the flesh to the spirit, from an enthusiasm in love to an enthusiasm in devotion, when Sophia on a sudden recollecting herself, cried out, --- ‘ But my dear miss Jessamy, I have been so engross’d by my own affairs that I forgot, till now, to enquire into yours ; ---I flatter myself, however, that you have no reason to complain of woes you so well know how to pity in another.’

‘ Indeed

‘ Indeed, replied Jenny, I have had my share of anxieties too, though of a nature far different from yours; ---and then repeated to her the whole story of that confusion which both herself and Jemmy had been involv’d in, through the report rais’d by Belpine; as also the unhappy consequences which had attended the discovery of his baseness.

They continued talking together upon this subject till Sophia thought it a proper time to retire; but Jenny would not suffer her to go till she had given her promise to see her again before she left the kingdom.

Her unhappy adventure had made a very great impression on the mind of our young heroine; ---she sincerely loved her, and pitied her misfortune; but could not help thinking it both strange and blameable in her to entertain so violent a passion for a man whose character she knew so little of. --- ‘ People make their own unhappiness, and then lament it, cried she somewhat peevishly, sure I never could have been so indiscreet;’ but this thought no sooner came into her head than it was checked by another; --- ‘ Yet how vain am I to flatter myself with such an imagination, or presume so far on my own strength of reason;’ as the poet truly says,

When things go ill, each fool presumes to advise,  
And if more happy, thinks himself more wise.

‘ How can I be certain, pursued she, that in the same circumstances I should not have acted in the same manner that poor Sophia has done? --- I have been defended from the misfortune that has befallen her --- first, by my father’s care in training me up to love where interest and convenience would accompany my passion, --- and afterwards by the well proved fidelity of the man ordain’d for me: --- had I been left to my own choice, who knows what might have happen’d? --- I remember to have read a passage somewhere which may remind the fortunate part of the world that they ought not to think they are so through their own merits, but the prevalence of their better stars.

With prosperous gales life's vessel smoothly glides,  
And on the smiling waves triumphant rides;  
But when rough storms from adverse quarters roar,  
How difficult to gain the wish'd for shore,

Thus did the knowledge of her friend's mistake, instead of making her set any value upon herself for not having been guilty of the like error, serve only to fill her with the warmest gratitude to Heaven that had not exposed her to the like danger.

Happy would it be, both for themselves and others, if all those ladies who know themselves free from the weakness incident to some others of their sex were of Jenny's way of thinking; but I shall say no more upon this head. — the reader must have sufficiently observ'd through all her actions, the sweetness and candour of her disposition; — therefore, according to the words of the inspired writer,

Let her own works praise her in the gates.

She was every day expecting her unfortunate friend to make her a second visit to take leave, when she received one from another person, on the same ceremony, which tho' she thought she had no manner of concern in at that time, proved afterwards matter of much satisfaction to her

Sir Robert Manley had a sudden call to Paris, on account of the death of an uncle, who disliking the times had retired thither some time ago, carrying with him all his effects, which were very considerable; — it was his gentleman, tho' his business required haste, that could not think of leaving the kingdom without first waiting on Jenny, to know if she had any commands in his power to execute at the place he was going to.

She thank'd him in the most obliging terms, but told him she had no affairs in Paris, nor did not know any acquaintance she had at present in all France, except mr. Jessamy, who was no farther than Calais.

'I shall pass through Calais, madam, answer'd he, perhaps stay a night or two there; — I shall doubtless see mr. Jessamy, — at least it will be in my power so to do, if you permit me to acquaint him that I have the honour to be known to you, and to carry to him the joyful news of your being in good health.'

'Tho'

Tho' she had the highest esteem for this gentleman, on account of his many amiable qualities, as well as for his birth, fortune and accomplishments, yet always keeping in mind the declaration he had once made of a passion for her, she maintained a greater reserve towards him than to any other of her acquaintance, --- and now only reply'd coldly, that if chance should bring them together, mr. Jessamy would certainly think himself honour'd in the company of a gentleman of his character.

As he was to take post for Dover the next morning, and had many friends to see before his departure, the visit he made here was very short; but he had not been gone an hour before Jenny found she had need of his service at Calais, and began a little to repent she had received the offer he had made her with so much indifference; --- a letter was brought her from Jemmy containing these lines:

To miss JESSAMY.

" Dearest and only dear,  
 " **N**OTHING but your commands could have  
 " kept me here, after what mr. Morgan has  
 " wrote to me; --- instead of this you would have now  
 " seen me at your feet. --- Oh Jenny! --- tender ge-  
 " nerous soul: --- but I will not wound your delicacy  
 " either with thanks or praises; --- indeed all the  
 " tribute I could pay of both would be too mean for  
 " the occasion.  
 " You desire to know in what manner I pass my  
 " time while banish'd from you, and I will give you  
 " an exact account: --- your Ideas of my sea coast  
 " promenades are just; but for the rest I am not quite  
 " so unhappyy as your fancy represents. --- They say  
 " Calais is the sink of France; --- but if it is --- what must  
 " be the garden? --- the streets indeed, are for the  
 " most part narrow and ill paved; but there is a square  
 " call'd La Place, spacious, airy, and very commodious  
 " for walking; and the ramparts afford as delectable  
 " a prospect as imagination can well figure out: ---  
 " then



“ then the air is so serene and pure,—the water is  
 “ good,—the wine excellent, and the inhabitants,  
 “ even to the lowest degree of people, extremely polite,  
 “ an instance of which I experienced a few nights past,  
 “ and must acquaint you with it.

“ Having seen all that is worthy of observation in  
 “ the town, curiosity led me to pass the gates, which  
 “ I had no sooner done than I found myself at the  
 “ entrance of three great roads --- that before me, as  
 “ I have since been informed, is the highway to Paris;  
 “ that on the right hand to St. Omers; --- and on  
 “ the left to Bologne; --- the good order in which they  
 “ are kept, and two triangles of beautiful fields which se-  
 “ parate the one from the other, took my eye extremely;  
 “ — the evening was very pleasant, —every thing  
 “ about me indulged contemplation, and I wandered  
 “ on to a considerable distance, when a soldier came  
 “ running almost breathless after me, and being obliged  
 “ to stop and turn about by his repeated calling to me,  
 “ he accosted me with a very low bow, and told me,  
 “ that perceiving I was a stranger, he thought it his  
 “ duty to acquaint me that the gates were always shut  
 “ at eight o’clock and the keys carried to the gover-  
 “ nor; that it was very near that hour, and if I did  
 “ not immediately return I should find it very difficult,  
 “ if not impossible, to re-enter the town; on this I  
 “ mended my pace according to his advice; but tho’  
 “ I went as fast as I could, came but just time enough  
 “ to go over the first draw-bridge, which they were  
 “ preparing to take up;—I now saw the danger I had  
 “ escaped, thanked the honest soldier for his Intelli-  
 “ gence, and offer’d him a piece of money, on which  
 “ he drew back and surprized me with this answer.—  
 “ No, sir, said he, the honour of serving you is a suf-  
 “ ficient recompence, — we soldiers never take mo-  
 “ ney but from the king our master.’ — “ Judge, my  
 “ dear Jenny, of the courtesy of the French nation in  
 “ general by the sample I have given you of it in this  
 “ soldier.

“ I will not, however, so far deceive either myself  
 “ or you, as not both to think and say, that if I were to  
 “ continue here for any length of time, I should not be  
 “ very

" very much at a loss for company, the town consisting chiefly of trading people, who are entirely taken up with their several avocations, so that excepting the officers of the army, and some few friars, there is little conversation suitable to the taste of an Englishman,

" I was yesterday at St. Omer's, to take a view of that famous seminary of Jesuits, which has given to the world so many prime ministers, bishops, cardinals and popes; but as I staid but a few hours there I saw scarce any thing of the place, except the college, which is indeed a very fine one; and I only tell you this to shew you that I neglect no opportunity of amusing myself.

" I also intend to make a visit to Bologne tomorrow, as I am told there are several English gentlemen there at present, for some of whom I have a particular regard, — I may perhaps stay two or three days; but if I should transgress the time of the mail coming in, shall leave orders for letters with my direction to be sent after me; — I would not be deprived one moment of the pleasure of hearing from you for all the enjoyments the world can give; — for know, my dear Jenny, it is not the Park, — the Plays, — the Operas, — the Assemblies, nor the company at White's, but it is your dear society alone I languish for, and which I trust to heaven I shall soon be blest with; — till when, call every soft idea of love and tenderness to your imagination, and let them tell you how much I am,

" Beyond what words can speak,

" My dear, dear Jenny,

" Your most passionate admirer,

" And eternally devoted

" Lover and servant,

" J. JESSAMY."

" P. S.

“ P. S. I remember you have a little picture which  
 “ was drawn for you some years ago, and came as near  
 “ the life as any thing of art can do; — it would be a  
 “ very great pleasure to me if you could contrive a  
 “ way to send it to me without much trouble to your-  
 “ self; — for though, as you may be certain, your  
 “ image is indelibly fix’d upon my heart, I should be  
 “ glad, methinks, to feast my eyes as well as mind  
 “ with your dear resemblance.”

Jenny was now heartily sorry this letter had not arriv’d before sir Robert Manley took his leave, as she might have engag’d him to be the bearer of the picture Jemmy requested of her.

She resolved, however, rather than not comply with the desire of a person so dear to her, to take the liberty of sending to that gentleman, and intreating the favour of speaking with him, if possible, before he set out on his journey,

Sir Robert was not at home when her servant went, nor received the message that had been left for him till it was too late to wait on her that night; but would not go out of town without obeying her summons, and came pretty early the next morning.

Jenny could not repeat, without blushing, the motive which had induced her to send for him, but after having said all, and indeed much more than was necessary, to apologize for what she had done; — ‘ Madam, answer’d he, I know not how to thank, as it deserves, the confidence you repose in me; but you must own, that in doing me this favour you put my honour to the severest trial:—How are you sure that a trust such as your picture may not tempt me to be base?’

‘ I will venture that, said she gaily, and should be glad to be quite as sure you will pardon the trouble I give you on this occasion.’—On this sir Robert said many gallant things; but concluded with a promise of delivering his charge safe into the hands of the happy person for whom it was intended, — and then took leave, as time pressed him to depart, and his chaise and servants had all this while waited for him at the door.

C. H. A. P.

*Contains none of those beautiful digressions, those remarks, or reflections which a certain would-be critic pretends are so much distinguish'd in the writings of his two favourite authors; yet, it is to be hoped, will afford sufficient to please all those who are willing to be pleased.*

THE smallest trifle, if requested by a friend, is a business of importance to the truly tender and sincere; — Jenny was as much pleased with having found an opportunity of sending her picture to Jemmy, as some ladies would be with being presented themselves with one set round with diamonds.

She contented not herself, however, with having obliged him in this particular, she knew he would also expect an immediate answer to his letter; and accordingly, that same evening, wrote to him in the following terms:

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

“ My dear JEMMY,

“ I Rejoice to hear that Calais is less irksome to you than by the description has been given me of seaport towns I fear'd it was; — you could not oblige me more than in telling me that you endeavour to make it as agreeable as possible, and that you support this banishment with some tolerable degree of patience.

“ Would to Heaven it were any way consistent with the affection I have for you to invite you home; but all the accounts our friends as yet have been able to get, in relation to Belpine's condition, are so very dubious and imperfect, that till we are more assured I dare not even indulge a wish of seeing you here: — Perplexing circumstance! that compels me to be thus anxious for the welfare of a villain who has attempted to destroy my peace, and that of him whose happiness I value above my own.

“ As



" As you desire to have my picture, I have intreated  
 " the favour of sir Robert Manley to deliver it to you  
 " as he passes through Calais in his way to Paris ;---he  
 " has the character of a person of great sense and ho-  
 " nour, and I believe deserves it ;---he talks of staying  
 " a day or two in the place where you are, and if so,  
 " I am apt to think his conversation, while thus des-  
 " titute of company, will be at least equally agreeable  
 " to the little token that introduces him to your ac-  
 " quaintance.

" I have seen so few people since you went away,  
 " that I have nothing to relate worthy to your atten-  
 " tion, except what you know already, that I am,

" With the most tender affection,

" Dear Jemmy,

" Your's entirely,

" And for ever,

J. JESSAMY."

" P. S. I will not ask your Picture in return, because  
 " I know not whether the place you are in affords any  
 " artists of that kind ; and besides,--- flatter myself  
 " that fate will order it so that you will not be o-  
 " bliged to continue there long enough to have it  
 " drawn."

Had Jenny deferred this letter till the next day, it  
 is certain she would have wrote in a quite different  
 manner ; --- pretty early in the morning Mr. Morgan  
 came and brought the joyful news that Belpine had  
 been seen walking about his chamber and looking  
 through the window.

Mr. Lovegrove also made her a visit the same day,  
 and confirm'd what the old gentleman had said ; as  
 did several others of her friends, who had been in-  
 dustrious in sifting out the truth of an affair which  
 they knew was of so much consequence to her peace.

Two or three days put the veracity of this intelli-  
 gence beyond all dispute ; --- the surgeon who had all  
 this time attended Belpine, no longer denied but that  
 his patient was out of danger from his wound, and the  
 people of the house confess'd to those who enquired into  
 the matter, that he had quitted his bed, and it was  
 expected would soon go abroad for the air.

Jenny

Jenny, who was fully informed of every thing that pass'd on this occasion, was beginning to entertain the most pleasing ideas of seeing her dear Jemmy within a very short space of time, and waited for a letter from him with less patience than ever she had done before, as the answer she should send him to it would be accompanied with an assurance that all the apprehensions his friends had for him were removed, and he might now return with safety.

She figured to herself the extacy with which her lover would receive this information, — the haste he would make to obey the welcome summons, and the mutual joy of their happy meeting ; — thus was she amused, as Shakespear elegantly expresses it,

Lull'd in the day, dreams of a mind in love.

But when the wish'd for letter arrived, she found the delightful prospect she had form'd was, for the present, quite obscured, as the reader will see in these lines :

To miss JESSAMY.

“ My Soul's Treasure,  
 “ **Y**OU have not only given me the resemblance of  
 “ your angelic self, but at the same time given me  
 “ a friend, for whom, next to that I ought to bless and  
 “ thank you ; --- you will doubtless wonder how I am  
 “ become so well acquainted with the virtues of sir Robert Manley in the short time we have been together  
 “ --- I will tell you then, ---- he has made me the  
 “ confidant of the passion he had for you, ---- your behaviour on his declaring it, and the noble conquest he  
 “ gain'd over himself when you so generously avow'd  
 “ your fidelity to me, and dependance on mine to you  
 “ But oh, my Jenny, --- how could I curse that do  
 “ Belpine ! ---- how could I repeat, a thousand and  
 “ thousand times, the blow I have given him, when  
 “ I look back upon that scene of wretchedness in  
 “ which I might have been inevitably plung'd by his  
 “ base arts ? --- your ears continually fill'd with

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“ports of my perfidiousness and ingratitude,—a rival  
“of such dangerous merit, encouraged by them to  
“make his addresses to you ; what must have become  
“of me, if the most unparallel’d constancy on your side,  
“and the strictest adherence to justice and honour on  
“his, had not secured my hopes ?—but, thanks to  
“both, the storm is overblown,—the danger is past,  
“and I should give up all myself to joy, and forgive the  
“wretch whose vile attempts to ruin me have the more  
“confirmed my happiness.

“And now, my dearest,—I am to inform you that  
“to-morrow I remove myself farther from you,—my  
“new friend tells me, that I might have seen Paris,  
“—all the royal palaces, and every thing deserving  
“observation, in the time I have been here ; and is  
“surprised that I did not take this opportunity of go-  
“ing to a place which affords so much to excite the  
“curiosity of a stranger ;—in fine, he has seduced me  
“to accompany him ;—I would not have you think,  
“however, that I yielded to his persuasions but in the  
“assurance he gave me that he had often heard you la-  
“ment the solitude of my condition, and wish me in a  
“more agreeable situation.

“Though I dare take his word, yet I should be  
“glad of receiving a farther confirmation from your-  
“self ;—a line from your dear hand will be a joyful  
“welcome to me on my arrival at that great city to  
“which I am going :—I know you too well to doubt  
“of your kind compliance with this request, as it is  
“the only thing which can enable me to relish any  
“amusements that may present themselves to me.

“Our worthy friend, who is willing to contribute  
“all he can to my satisfaction, writes this night to  
“mr. Waters, a banker in Paris, to desire that if any  
“letters directed for me are left at his house, they  
“shall be taken care of.—Farewel, — believe that  
“wherever I am, my heart is always with you, and  
“that I never can be other than,

“With inviolable love and truth,

“My dear Jenny, your most passionately,

“And most tenderly devoted lover, and servant,

J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. Sir Robert lays a strict injunction upon me  
 “ to engage your pardon for the tales he has told me,  
 “ and to make his compliments and best wishes ac-  
 “ ceptable to you.”

How would some ladies have swell'd at this disap-  
 pointment?—I believe I know those who would have  
 thrown the letter from them with the utmost disdain,  
 —perhaps torn it, and cried out—‘ How dare the fel-  
 ‘ low use me thus?—he ought to have asked me leave  
 ‘ before he went away;—he does not deserve that I  
 ‘ should ever see him more,’—and a thousand such like  
 reproaches; but the reader has seen too much of Jenny  
 to expect this sort of behaviour in her;—at first, in-  
 deed, it gave a little check to her late flow of spirits,  
 to find her lover was every day going farther from her,  
 at a time when she had hoped he would be approach-  
 ing towards her; but she soon recover'd herself, and,  
 on well weighing the motives that induced him to  
 leave Calais, found she had more reason to approve  
 than to condemn him for it.

Though in his letters to her he had dissembled his  
 chagrin, for fear she should be too much affected with it,  
 yet she was sensible that for a man of his gay temper to  
 be so long pent up in such a place as Calais, could not  
 but be very irksome to him; and as he yet was igno-  
 rant of the hopes his friends had of his returning soon  
 to England, neither wonder'd at, nor was angry that  
 he so readily embraced Mr Robert Manley's proposal  
 of passing the time of his absence in a manner so much  
 more capable of improving his mind, as well as of  
 gratifying his senses.

This was the way in which she argued with herself  
 in defence of her lover's proceedings; and upon the  
 whole, was not sorry to be deprived of his company  
 for a while longer, as he was gone to view the magni-  
 ficence of a place so famous throughout Europe, and  
 so much the mode of all young persons of condition  
 to be acquainted with.

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She had but just seal'd this up and order'd a servant to carry it to the post, when a second messenger from lady Wingman arrived, and presented her with a little billet from lord Huntly, folded in the shape of a true lover's knot, and contained these lines :

To Miss JESSAMY.

" MADAM,

" COME,---charmer come,---but leave your cares behind,

" To your friend's happiness be all resign'd :

" Haste to congratulate rewarded love ;

" A bliss you'll one day give,---and Jemmy prove,

" In the same manner as does,

" MADAM,

" Your most obedient servant,

" The transported

" HUNTLEY."

Jenny easily found by this rhapsody, that his lordship's marriage with miss Wingman was agreed upon, if not already celebrated, and as she had a very great respect both for the one and the other of them, bid her chairmen make all the haste they could to carry her to the scene of joy.

C H A P. XXII.

*Contains, among sundry interesting and entertaining particulars, a certain proposal, agreement, and resolution,--- sudden,---unexpected,---highly important to one of the parties concerned, and no less pleasing to the others.*

JENNY, being shewed up into lady Wingman's great drawing-room, found lady Speck,---miss Wingman,---lord Huntley,---mr. Lovegrove, and sir Thomas Welby, with her ladyship ; the highest gaiety appear'd in all their countenances, except those of miss Wingman and mr. Lovegrove, who both look'd extremely serious, tho' for very different reasons.

This had, indeed, been a pretty extraordinary day, ---lady Wingman having consented to give her daughter to lord Huntley, and sir Thomas Welby highly approving

proving of that union between them, the marriage articles were that morning signed; and it was either that the intended bride thought it became her to look grave on this occasion, or that the thoughts of being so near entering into a new scene of life made her really so, which caused an unusual sedateness in her behaviour.

As to mr. Lovegrove,—the encouragement he had lately received from lady Speck, and the knowledge that she had discarded all her lovers except himself, had given him courage that day to press her in more strong terms than ever he had done before, for the completion of his wishes; at which she had seemed very much offended, and told him that the man who had not love and patience enough to wait till she discovered an inclination to change her condition, should find that she never would do so in his favour.

This cruel rebuff, from a mistress he had courted for so long a time, did not however hinder him from waiting on her to lady Wingman's, having before received an invitation from her ladyship to come there; but it cast, notwithstanding, such a dejection on his spirits, as was not in his power to conceal, though he attempted it as much as possible.

But Jenny had not presently an opportunity to observe this change in him, or to make her compliments to any of the company;—she had scarce returned the first salutations of lady Wingman, before lord Huntley catching fast hold of both her hands,—‘Dear miss Jessamy, cried he, you were so good to take part in my distresses at Bath, and I flatter myself will no less do so in the assurance I now have of being shortly the happiest man in the world.’

‘Shortly, my lord, replied she, you surprise me;—I imagined by the billet I just now received that the ceremony was over, and that you lordship was already a bridegroom.’

On this sir Thomas Welby took up the word,—‘No, madam, said he, I have not yet given up my fair charge; but have promised to put her entirely into his lordship's possession on Tuesday next,—according to the institution,—till death do them part;—and it

was

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Besides, she consider'd that for him to leave such a place as Paris immediately, and without being able, at his return, to give any description of the royal palaces,—colleges,—convents, and other things she had heard much talk of, must infallibly expose him to the raillery of all his acquaintance,—she knew that they would say it was for her sake he did so;—that they would call him a romantic lover;—tell him that he was so much the devotee of Cupid, that he could not support the least absence from his mistress; with such-like stuff;—and would have chose he should even love her less, rather than that he should give any proof of love which might call in question his good sense.

How easy,—how contented must be the man who has a mistress of this way of thinking! and how happy is it also for herself, as it is the almost certain means of securing the lasting esteem, as well as affection, of the man she loves?

Jemmy, at least, was a proof of the truth of this observation;—the gay and sprightly manner in which he answer'd his dear Jenny's epistle, shew'd he was highly pleased with the injunction she laid upon him in it;—these were his words:

To miss JESSAMY.

“ Dearest JENNY,

“ I Received yours two hours after my arrival,—I need not tell you with what pleasure;—but because I have no words to thank the kindness of it as I ought, nor any thing more material to fill up my letter, shall give you a brief recital of our journey, in which we met with something drole enough to make you laugh, if I do not spoil it in the description.

“ We had not been long in the first inn we baited at, when the drawer told us there was an English gentleman in the house, who hearing we were his countrymen begg'd leave to join us;—this we readily granted, flattering ourselves that the evening would pass more agreeably by the addition of a third person in company;—a young spark was presently usher'd in, dress'd fitter for the drawing-room than

“ the road ;—after the first compliments were over, he  
 “ cried out in a very theatric tone,

Thro’ Purgatory first we pass,

And then arrive at Heaven’s high Mafs.

“ We started at him, but he immediately explained  
 “ himself, and told us in plain prose, that after the  
 “ purgatory of an odious sea-sickness, and the villain-  
 “ ous jolt of a post-chaise, he had at last attain’d the  
 “ heaven of being admitted into the company of per-  
 “ sons whom he knew, by their equipage, must be men  
 “ of good sense and taste.

“ We found him very communicative ;—he had not  
 “ been half an hour before he gave us the history of  
 “ his life ; but so larded with scraps of poetry and  
 “ tags of plays, that it was not altogether intelligible ;  
 “ we pick’d out enough, however, to know that he  
 “ had been intended for the law ; but that not liking  
 “ the business, nor indeed any business, he had left his  
 “ master before he had served out half his clerkship ;  
 “ and unexpectedly coming into the possession of an  
 “ estate, by the death of a relation, he applied himself  
 “ to the study of the Belles Lettres, meaning poetry,  
 “ —in which he imagined himself a great proficient :  
 “ —he told us he had read every thing worth reading  
 “ in English, and was now come to France to perfect  
 “ himself in that language, for the better understand-  
 “ ing of Racine, Crebillon, and some other authors  
 “ whom he had heard much talk’d on.

“ I have known some men, who either having no  
 “ genius of their own, or are too indolent to exert it,  
 “ have thus set up both for wits and critics upon the  
 “ shoulders of others ; but I never found one so strongly  
 “ possess’d with this poetical frenzy as the fellow I am  
 “ telling of.

“ Sir Robert, in a sarcastical humour, wrote his  
 “ character extempore in these lines, which I find  
 “ no fault with, but that they are not half severe  
 “ enough :

Sure he was born when nature was in chime,

Whate’er you say, he answers still in rhyme ;

Knows



Knows all the bards—from Shakespear's lofty  
flow,

Down to the jingle of time-serving Row,  
And Fielding's Rosamond in puppet-show ;  
Has all fam'd Laureat Colley's Odes by heart,  
Can point out what is dull, and what is smart ;  
Erects himself a wit, on their foundation,  
And proves his arguments from sound quotation ;  
Memory supplies judgment and fancy's want,  
You miss not these, while that's predominant.

" In fine, my dear Jenny, there never was a more  
" egregious coxcomb ; but the poor creature was di-  
" verting, and complaisant to such an excess, that it  
" was not in our power to affront him, —we had him  
" quite up to Paris, and perhaps should not have got  
" rid of him here very easily, if it had not come into  
" sir Robert's head to recommend him to a coffee-  
" house, where he told him he would find a great  
" many petit-maitres, much of his own turn of mind.

" This is the only adventure that happen'd to us on  
" the road, except an instance of puritanical hypo-  
" crisy, which may serve to strengthen that contempt  
" I know you already have for those pretended zea-  
" lots :—happening to stop at a cabaret on the road  
" for some refreshment, another post-chaise came to  
" the door at the same time, out of which alighted one  
" of the most noted and most impudent courtezans that  
" ever stroll'd St. James's-Park ;—she was handed out  
" by a person in laced cloaths, bag wig, feather in  
" his hat, and a long sword by his side ; but the con-  
" venticle leer distinguish'd him thro' this disguise, and  
" I presently knew him for a wealthy citizen of Lon-  
" don,—a strong Presbyterian,—and who passes for  
" a saint among his congregation ;—as I had some lit-  
" tle acquaintance with him, having once bought some  
" things of him, I stepp'd towards him,—call'd him  
" by his name, and told him I was surpris'd to see him  
" in France ;—never was poor mortal so confus'd,—  
" so shock'd ;—at first, I believe, he would have de-  
" nied he was the person ; but not having courage, he  
" begg'd I would not expose him, by telling any body  
" where, or in what company I had seen him ;—I

" promised I would not, and left him ; but still so dis-  
 " concerted, that I dare say it would be some time be-  
 " fore he could recover himself to be good company  
 " with his mistress.

" I leave you to laugh ; for whatever tender things  
 " I have to say to you must be deferred till another op-  
 " portunity, my paper affording room for no more,  
 " than that I am,

" Eternally, truly, and passionately,

" My soul's best joy,

" Your most Devoted

" Friend, lover,

" And servant,

" J. JESSAMY."

The satisfaction Jenny felt in reading this letter, as indeed in all others she received from the same hand, need not be told to those who have faithful and affectionate hearts ; and to those of rougher natures would be but impertinent ; I shall therefore say no more on this head, but pass on to matters of a very different kind.

## CHAP. XX.

*Makes a short pause in the history, in order to present the reader with the detail of a matrimonial contest on a pretty particular occasion.*

A Very celebrated French author tells us, in his treatise on the human mind, that what we commonly call humour is no more than nature in odd circumstances :—' Humour, says he, is made up of three qualities,—an ambition of appearing peculiar,—a strong attachment to some one trifle, and an obstinate perseverance in whatever it inclines to ; —all these three, he still goes on, are in nature ; but then it is in nature perverted, unregulated by reason, and consequently in odd circumstances.'

How far he is right in this definition, I dare not take upon me to determine ; but it is certain, that one daily sees a great many people whose characters and manners cannot otherwise be very easily accounted for.

When

When any two of these humourists meet together in company, and some subject happens to be started in which they differ in opinion, how farcical would be the dispute between them, if not liable to be attended with worse mischiefs than mutual altercations ;— both of them vehemently tenacious of what he imagines is right, and equally impatient of contradiction, they foam,—they fret,—they rail,—affect to despise each other, and frequently from such beginnings the most lasting animosities arise ; though perhaps the thing in question is a mere bagatelle ; or, if not so, of no more consequence to either of them than what is doing in the farthest parts of Ethiopia, or the desarts of Arabia,

But how much soever we may laugh at such idle quarrels between persons who are strangers, or only casually acquainted with each other, it must afford a very melancholy reflection when we see the same effects on those who are most near, either by blood or alliance.

Of all ties, that of marriage requires the strictest unanimity ; yet how many do we find, who, merely for the gratification of some ridiculous caprice of their own, endeavour to render miserable the person whom, by all laws, both human and divine, they are bound to make it their study to oblige, and turn that state, which should be all love and harmony, into one of discord and confusion.

The people with whom Jenny lived were of this unhappy class ;—they had little to discompose them, except the perverseness of their own humours ; but this indulged was sufficient to involve them in greater inquietudes than fortune could otherwise have inflicted on them :—without the least understanding in political affairs, they took it into their heads to attach themselves to different parties, not thro' principle or interest, but merely because they had a mind to do so :—this opposition of humour, for it could not be call'd sentiment, occasioned perpetual jars between them, in which they were sometimes so loud and disturbing, that Jenny had more than once threatened to quit their house ; and it was, perhaps, the fear of losing so beneficial a boarder that kept them within any tolerable bounds.

It is very strange, and would be incredible, if daily experience did not evince the truth, that people of genteel education,—naturally complaisant, and of a social disposition in other things should suffer themselves to be so much influenced by some one favourite humour as to throw off all love,—all good manners,—all decency, and act like the most rude unpolished creatures in the universe.

Yet thus it sometimes proves,—neither the husband nor the wife I am speaking of were ignorant how to behave themselves agreeably to the world and to each other; but unfortunately happening to be of a different way of thinking in one particular point, their passions got the better of all other considerations, and both of them seemed divested of reason, and equally even of common civility, as will be seen in the instance I am going to relate.

The wife was now lying-in of a first child, which happened to prove a daughter; Jenny, who had promised to be one of the sponsors at the font, frequently stepped into the room to enquire after the health of the new-made mother and her infant;—as she was going on this good-natured and charitable errand, she heard the husband's voice within exceeding loud, and found they were at very high words; but this did not hinder her entering, not doubting but her presence would allay the storm, as it had done many times before.

But this couple were at this time raised to a pitch too high to be easily quelled;—‘A man cried he, had better be buried alive than be married to a fool,—an idiot:—’ And a woman retorted she with equal bitterness, had better be in her grave than married to a man who, without the least share of reason, fancies he has more than any body else.’

‘Fye, said Jenny, is this a time for quarrelling,—when one should expect to see only mutual endearments? Pray what has occasioned this dissention? some trifle, I will lay my life.’—‘No, madam answered he, it is no trifle, I assure you, but the most serious thing that can be:—Would you believe it, miss Jessamy, continued he pointing to his wife,—that unnatural mother



'ther there would make me hate the infant she has brought into the world.'

'Regard not what he says, miss Jessamy, cried she, let him not lay the blame of his own venomous heart on me;—for he may be assured, that if he has his will, I would see the little creature, dear as it now is to me, sprawling,—dying at my feet, rather than act a mother's part.'—'And if your peevish obstinacy prevails,' rejoined he, 'it never shall know me for a father,—shall never share my blessing or my substance.'

'Bless me, said Jenny, what horrid menaces are these to the poor helpless innocent?—but still I am in the dark as to the meaning.'—Both the husband and the wife had their mouths open at the same time to make answer to this demand; but the weak condition of the woman having taken away some part of her usual volubility, he had the advantage of speaking first. — 'The dispute between us, madam, said he, is concerning the name by which the child shall be baptised,—I am desirous it should be Charlot, and she, in downright opposition to me, will needs have it called Wilhelmina.'

'Oh Heavens!' cried Jenny, with a sort of a scornful smile, 'is all this contention about a name?'—'A name, madam, resumed he eagerly,—a name is not so trifling a thing as you seem to think it:—I am an Englishman, madam,—I love my country, and will have no foreign names in my family.'

'It is a small mark of your loving your country; bawled she out as loud as she was able, 'when your child is to have a horrid,—papish,—jacobite name;—but she shall never be made a christian on such terms;—I had a thousand times rather see her an atheist, an infidel, or any thing, than an odious jacobite.'

'Both of you are certainly mad, said Jenny, and put constructions upon things which no people in the world, except yourselves, would ever think of;—as if the name of a person were the symbol of a party:—but even if it were so, how can Charlot be accounted papish?—or Wilhelmina, outlandish.—The one, as I take it, being the feminine of Charles and the o-

ther

‘ther of William, which are both English, and also good protestant names.’

‘Your derivation, madam, is extremely right as to the one, replied the husband ; but not as to the other ; — Charlot is indeed the feminine of Charles ; but in our language, the feminine of William would be Willamina or Willamana, not Wilhelmina ; — that hel in the middle shews it is not of English extraction.’

Jenny laughed heartily at this definition, though she could not but allow it to be just ; — on which the wife said somewhat sullenly, — that she did not care to what country the name most properly belonged, if it were even the Hotentots, provided it did not favour of jacobitism ; — and then beginning to inveigh afresh against her husband’s principles, provoked him to be no less severe on those she professed.

While they were railing, a thought came into Jenny’s head which luckily put an end to this ridiculous controversy, and was, perhaps, the only way that could have done it : — ‘ I have been considering on this matter, said she, not that I pretend to decide which of you is in the right ; for as the thing appears to me you are both equally in the wrong ; but as I am to be god-mother to the child, and it is the very first time I have ever taken that charge upon me, I think I might have expected the compliment of giving the name.’

At these words the husband and wife looked on each other with a good deal of confusion, which lasted for some minutes ; — after which, — ‘ Indeed, madam, said he, turning to Jenny, our unpoliteness well deserves this reprimand ; — but it is not yet too late, I hope, to make attonement ; — the honour you do us claims at least the retaliation you mention. — be pleased, therefore, to bestow upon the child what name you shall think proper, — I shall readily acquiesce to whatsoever you make choice of, even though it should be Wilhelmina.’

‘ Nor will I oppose Miss Jessamy, rejoined the wife very gravely ; but flatter myself she will not call my poor baby the cursed name of Charlot ;’ — she said no more, but could not utter these few words without let-

ting

ting fall some tears of spite, which Jenny, as good natured as she was, did not regard with much compassion.

' Since then you consent to leave this important matter to my decision, answer'd she with a smile, you may depend that I shall present my little god daughter at the font neither by the name of Charlot or Wilhelmina ; but in compliment to a person who is much nearer to me than any Charles or William in the world, I shall call it *Jemima*.'

' I understand your reason for that, madam, perfectly well, said the wife, I know mr. Jessamy's name is James ; and I assure you that I have so high a respect for that gentleman on his own account, as well as yours, that I shall be proud to have my child call'd after him.'

' I hold up both my hands in token of approbation,' cried the husband ; and was so well pleased with the choice Jenny had made, that he would doubtless have added something more, if he had not been prevented by the fears of rousing certain imaginations in his wife's head, which he was glad to find had not yet enter'd there, on account of the name Jenny had mention'd.

Thus was this mighty controversy, at last, happily adjusted through the interposition of Jenny, to the entire satisfaction of one of the parties concern'd, and without giving the other the least cause to think herself aggriev'd.

The next day having before been agreed upon for the performance of the ceremony, the infant was made a christian by that name which the fair and discreet mediator had proposed.

Nothing happening afterwards of consequence enough to trouble the reader with the repetition of, I shall now return to the thread of my history, which it is more than possible some may condemn me for having interrupted.

*Is very proper to be read in an easy chair, either soon after dinner, or at night just going to rest.*

**T**HOSE people who are justly look'd upon as the most fortunate, cannot pass through life without having their anxieties on some score or other, — frequent rubs in the way to our desires, — disappointments and vexations of various kinds attend the whole race of man; they are inherent to our very species, and none can be said to be always totally exempt from them: — it is a certain and establish'd maxim, that as no one was ever so completely wretched as not to have some intervals of joy, so no one was ever so happy as not to have some portion of bitter mingled with the sweets of life; — sir Robert Howard thus accounts for the fluctuating state of human affairs :

One gains by what another is bereft,  
The frugal destinies have only left  
A common bank of happiness below,  
Maintain'd like nature, by an ebb and flow.

The celebrated mr. Dryden also expresses himself on the same subject in this manner :

Good after evil, after pain delight,  
Alternate, like the scenes of day and night.

And as another author of a more modern date though no less worthy estimation than either of the former, tells us, and his words are true :

Eternal changes on our beings wait,  
Life's certain dow'r, the chequer work of fate.

But though misfortunes are common to every one yet they fall lighter or heavier according to the disposition of the person they lay hold on; — dull and sluggish minds are apt to sink beneath the weight of the most trifling ill; whereas the more active and spirituous, not only bear up with fortitude amidst the greatest but also feel a pleasure in their deliverance from them which they had never known had they been ignorant of affliction.



JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. III

To find ourselves triumphant over difficulties, — to have escaped some threatened calamity, — to be raised from a state of mourning into one of joy and gladness, enhances our sensibility of happiness, and gives us a double relish in the possession, as old Broome in one of his comedies observes :

Past woes the present blessing more endear.

But I might have spared myself the trouble of quoting authors, to prove the truth which is in the experience of almost every one, in a more or less proportion ; — the heroine of this history, however, must doubtless be sensible of it in a much higher degree than many others, as she was possess'd of a greater share of vivacity and sprightliness.

The apprehensions, — the terrors, which this amiable young lady had lately labour'd under for the safety of Jemmy, being now entirely dissipated, by hearing from all hands that Belpine was perfectly recover'd ; the satisfaction, — the transport, that succeeded those anxieties was such, as without having suffer'd the other she never would have experienced.

Besides, without this accident she might possibly never have been acquainted with the true tenderness of her own heart for him, nor with the sincerity of his affection for her ; and it was the full conviction of both these which could alone enable her to taste douceurs of love and friendship in that elevated manner she now did.

To this, therefore, though it seem'd the worst of mischiefs when it happen'd, did she owe the happiness she now enjoy'd ; and to this also was Jemmy indebted for that soft communication of hearts which the volatileness of both their tempers had before deny'd them the blessing of partaking.

Her heart, however, was not so much taken up with love and gladness, as not to afford some room for commiseration to the misfortunes she saw others suffer ; — Sophia being now ready to depart, came to take her last farewell, and the dejection which appeared in the voice and countenance of that unhappy lady, touch'd her very deeply.

Then

‘ Then you are resolved to leave us, my dear Sophia? said she, embracing her; — ‘ It was my fixt determination when last I saw you, answer’d the other sighing; but if it had not been so I have met with enough to convince me I had no other part to take. — ‘ Can any new insults have been offer’d to you? demanded Jenny hastily, — ‘ None, reply’d she, that can exceed the baseness of those I had before received from that most consummate of all villains Willmore, and this last only serves to prove he is incorrigible.’

“ Happening to have some business the other day to cross the Park, continued she, I met Willmore in the narrow passage leading from thence to Spring-Garden,—he had two persons with him, who I suppose, by their habits, were officers in the army; — they were all three arm in arm, and took up so much of the way, that it was impossible for me to pass by them without brushing; — Willmore was next to me, and I could not, though I confess it was indiscreet, omit this opportunity of asking him, how he had the assurance to deny the debt he owed me? ” — “ ‘ Child, don’t expose yourself; — I wonder your friends let you go loose in this manner,’ — cried he; and without staying to hear what farther I would say, went on: — just as they had pass’d by me, I heard one of those that were with him say, — ‘ Who is she? ’ — A poor distracted creature that follows me about,’ reply’d the monster, on which they all set up a horse-laugh.

“ I was frighted almost to death, lest they should turn back, and also of being ill used by the populace, as I perceived several people, hearing what they had said, stood still to stare at me; — I pluck’d my hood over my face, and ran as fast as I was able to take shelter in a shop at the corner of the place, where I had certainly fainted away if the master of it, seeing the condition I was in, had not brought me a glass of water.

“ Judge now, my dear miss Jessamy, added she, if to remain in a place, where I must expect to be made the publick ridicule, would not be a folly in me even greater than that which has subjected me to it? ”

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'I have already testified, replied Jenny, how much I approved your resolution of retiring, at least for a time; but I would wish to see you do so without pain, — I would not have you stay, but would have you carry no sad ideas with you, and when you quit the scene of your misfortunes, quit the remembrance of them also.'

Tears were the only answer which the disconsolate Sophia was able to make for some time to this kind advice; — but recovering herself as soon as possible, —

"Ah, my dear miss Jessamy, said she, a heart so perfectly at ease as yours, is little able to comprehend the horrors mine must feel, thus doubly oppress'd with shame and unavailing rage."

The good-natur'd Jenny then remonstrated to her, that as she had been guilty of no crime, she had no cause to take any shame to herself; — 'you have been cruelly imposed upon, indeed, said she; but if you have believed too much, it was the sincerity of your own heart that would not suffer you to suspect another's could be base; — and as for the loss of so considerable a part of your fortune by the injustice of Willmore, that misfortune will seem less to you when compared with what worse evils you might have sustained, if marriage had bestowed the whole of what you are mistress of, as well as your person, on a man of such abandon'd principles.'

The fair afflicted acknowledged the justice of these arguments, particularly the last; and confess'd that to a virtuous woman the lowest and most abject station in life was infinitely preferable to being the wife of a man who had neither honour nor humanity.

In discourses of this nature did these two ladies pass most of the time they were together; — on parting, Jenny obliged the other to accept of a small diamond ring in token of her friendship, — conjured her to write often to her, and assured her that there were very few things which could afford her more real satisfaction than to hear that her tranquility was perfectly restored.

The last embrace was accompanied with tears on both sides, and Jenny, after being left alone, could not restrain her eyes from letting fall a second shower; —

'Poor



‘ Poor Sophia, cried she, what cruel star presided at thy  
‘ nativity, and subjected thee to such dreadful and un-  
‘ deserved misfortunes!’

But afterwards, on beginning to reflect more deeply  
on the source of that lady’s unhappiness.—‘ Yet how  
‘ unjust and silly is it in us, said she, to lay the blame  
‘ of our misdeeds on destiny? — ’tis our own actions  
‘ make our fate;—else to what end is reason given us?  
‘ —wherefore are we endued with the power of think-  
‘ ing,—of judging,—of comparing, but to defend our  
‘ hearts from any dangerous impressions?’

‘ Fate, —fortune, continued she, the irresistible de-  
‘ crees or over-ruling powers, to which people impute  
‘ whatever calamities they suffer, are only mention’d to  
‘ excuse the inadvertencies they have been guilty of;  
‘ —so strictly true is the inimitable Cowley’s observa-  
‘ tion on this head:’

‘Tis our own wisdom moulds our state,

Our faults or virtues make our fate.

Thus justly did the considerate Jenny reason within  
herself on the condition of Sophia; though she had al-  
ways preserved a very tender friendship for that lady,  
and sincerely commiserated her present misfortunes,  
yet she could not absolve from blame the conduct which  
had reduced her to them; — for a young woman, who  
wanted not understanding, to have resign’d her heart,  
—trusted her fortune, and afterwards her person, in  
the hands of a man who she had known but a short  
space of time, and whose character and principles she  
was utterly unacquainted with, seem’d to her an indis-  
cretion no less inexcusable than it was strange.

‘ I do not like that sort of love, said she, which  
‘ comes at once upon us, and is inspired merely by  
‘ exterior perfections: — beauty may attract the eye;  
‘ but, in my opinion, is not sufficient to engage the  
‘ heart:—the face is not always the index of the mind;  
‘ —those qualifications which alone merit our affecti-  
‘ ons, are not presently to be discover’d; and I am  
‘ amazed how any woman can resolve to give up her  
‘ liberty to a man, without being able to alledge some-  
‘ thing farther in justification of her choice than his  
‘ having an agreeable person.’

These



These were the dictates of her severer reason; but they were soon overpower'd by the more prevailing softness of her nature, and swallow'd up amidst a flood of pity.—'Yet—why do I think this way, cried she again, the circumstances of my fortune have render'd me no competent judge of the passion I pretend to condemn?—much certainly may be said in defence of poor Sophia,—her heart was tender, unprepossess'd, and ready to receive the first impression;—she had convers'd little with the world, was intirely ignorant of the artifices which the villainous part of mankind are capable of putting in practice to deceive our sex, and had no friend to advise or warn her against the danger;—I should therefore, perhaps, be no less inexcusable in censuring this unhappy creature, than she is in having yielded to that fatal impulse by which so many, and some too of the best understanding, have been seduced.'

She was in the depth of these meditations, when a servant from lady Wingman came to acquaint her, that her company was immediately desir'd at her house; and also that her ladyship insist'd, that, putting off all other engagements, she would resolve to pass the whole evening with her.

Jenny dismiss'd the fellow with her compliments, and in assurance that she would accept the invitation her ladyship favour'd her with as soon as she could get herself ready, she being then in an entire dishabille, not having intended to go abroad that day.

Accordingly she call'd her maid that same moment to her assistance, and as she never wasted much time in dressing, was soon equipp'd for the performance of her promise; but remembering it was post-day, would not, on any consideration, omit answering her dear Jemmy's letter, therefore sat down and wrote to him in the following terms:

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

My dear JEMMY,

I Always receive every thing that comes from you with an inexpressible satisfaction; but your last afforded me a more than double portion, as the strain in which you write assures me that the air of Paris  
" has

"has already begun to dissipate some part of those  
 "melancholy ideas you carried with you, which I shall  
 "love it for as long as I live.

"I flatter myself that by the time this reaches your  
 "hand you will have visited some of those fine places  
 "which are so much talked of here, and expect you  
 "will give me a short sketch of every thing you see, in  
 "order to prepare my attention for a more particular  
 "description of it hereafter ;—in the mean time I shall  
 "bottle up all the occurrences that shall happen to  
 "fall in my way, to entertain you with on your re-  
 "turn.

"I have nothing worth your notice at present to ac-  
 "quaint you with, except that I am happy in the fre-  
 "quent visits of your two very sincere friends,—mr.  
 "Ellwood and mr. Morgan ;—I need not tell you,  
 "when either of them are with me, on what the con-  
 "versation chiefly turns ;—they easily perceive they  
 "can talk on no other subject so pleasing to me as your-  
 "self ; and I am perfectly well convinced, by the  
 "warmth with which they speak of you, that it is not  
 "altogether owing to their complaisance to me, but  
 "in a great measure to gratify their own inclinations,  
 "that your name and virtues are so often mentioned.

"Lady Wingman has just now sent for me in very  
 "great haste.—I know not as yet upon what occasion,  
 "but would not disoblige her ladyship by being too  
 "tardy in complying with her request,—so must bid  
 "you adieu for this time : be assured I am, and ever  
 "shall be,

"With the sincerest, tenderest affection,

"My dear Jemmy,

"As much as you can wish or expect,

"Yours,

"J. JESSAMY.

"P. S. The accounts I have concerning Belpine  
 "are very favourable ;—but let not this intelli-  
 "gence hasten your return one moment sooner  
 "than you are quite weary of the place you are  
 "in."

She

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## C H A P. XIX.

*Which the author thinks it highly proper to acquaint the public, is much of a piece with the foregoing ; so that every one may be at liberty either to read or not, according to the satisfaction the other has afforded.*

JENNY had lived almost as retired as a woman in the first month of her widowhood, ever since Jemmy had been obliged to fly the kingdom on the wound he had given Belpine ; but now finding he was out of danger, either of life or liberty, on that score, by the recovery of his antagonist, and also that he was gone to regale himself in a place so abounding with all sorts of pleasures, she began to resume her former cheerfulness and vivacity, appeared in all public places as she had been accustomed, and returned all the visits that were made to her.

Her intimacy with lady Speck and Miss Wingman was very much increased since she had been at Bath with them, by the participation they had in her secrets, and she in theirs :—as these ladies were continually entertain'd by their lovers with all manner of diversions, she was never left out in any of them, except by her own choice.

Though no one was fonder of all innocent pleasures, and was less reserv'd and unconstrain'd in conversation, yet she did not suffer the gaities of life to interfere with her more serious reflections ;—the duties of love and friendship, next those of Heaven, were always her peculiar care, and she never neglected the discharge of them on any pretence whatever.

It cannot therefore be supposed that she omitted the gratification of her dear Jemmy's request ;—she calculated, as well as she was able from the accounts had been given her of the route to Paris, on what day he would be there, and sent a letter to meet him on his arrival ;—the contents of what she wrote to him were these :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

“ My dear JEMMY,

“ I HOPE this will find you in good health and spirits, after the fatigue of your long journey. —I am so well pleased with your having taken it, that I should extremely condemn myself for not having advised you to it sooner, if what I confessed was owing to my want of thought, had not proved for the best, by occasioning you to go in such good company.

“ I am told that Belpine is judg'd to be out of danger;—but that is now a matter of no moment,—whatever may be wrote to you on that head, remember, that as I may never see Paris myself I shall expect from you a very exact account of all the curiosities the place affords;—therefore, if you would oblige me, you must not think of coming home till you are well assured that you can have left nothing behind you unobserv'd.

“ Good night,—repose, at present, must be more beneficial to you than any thing I could say, which would all amount to no more than a repetition of my being,

“ With the most unfeigned affection,

“ My dear Jemmy,

“ As much yours at this distance,

“ As when nearer,

J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. Pray let sir Robert know I think of him with the most just respect.”

Though this letter was somewhat shorter than those she usually wrote to him, yet the few lines it contain'd, discover'd, without her designing to do so, such a well establish'd fund of tenderness in her soul, as cannot but be discernable to every understanding reader.

She was entirely eas'd of all her apprehensions for him on the score of the wound he had given Belpine, and doubtless wish'd as ardently to see him again as the most violent of her sex could have done; but there was a certain delicacy in her passion, which render'd every thing that gave him pleasure an adequate satisfaction to herself, nor could she ever have been truly happy without knowing he was so.

Besides,



‘was to engage you to be witness of this form, that your company was desired.’

‘That is not all, sir Thomas, cried lady Speck, we have something more than being present at the wedding to require of miss Jessamy.’—‘Yes, rejoined miss Wingman,—something that I fancy will be much more agreeable to herself.’

‘There is hardly a possibility, answered Jenny, for either of you to require any thing of me that will not be agreeable ;—but I am very much at a loss to guess what can be more so than to behold an union which affords so fair a prospect of lasting happiness, to persons for whom I have the greatest honour and esteem.’

Lord Huntley was just opening his mouth in order to make some return to this compliment, but was prevented by lady Speck, who briskly cried out,—‘You must know, miss Jessamy, that we have all taken it into our heads to go to Paris, — and are resolved to have you with us.’

‘To Paris, madam! demanded Jenny strangely amazed ;—Pray what does your ladyship mean?’—‘We all mean alike, said miss Wingman smiling,—and are determined to take no denial ;—you must needs go with us and fetch home mr. Jessamy.’

All the presence of mind Jenny was usually mistress of, could not enable her to recover herself enough from the astonishment she was in to desire an explanation of all this ; nor even to ask whether what they had said to her was meant in earnest or in jest. —The ladies laugh’d heartily ; but lord Huntley, pitying her confusion took upon himself to unfold the mystery.

He told her that his dear miss Wingman, having an utter aversion to those formal visits of congratulation, always made to persons of condition on their marriage, and believing she should be no less troubled with them in the country than in town, had testified a desire of going to France ;—that lady Speck, approving of the motion, had promised to accompany them ;—and, in fine, that it was agreed among them to set out for Dover, in order to embark for Calais, immediately after the ceremony was performed.

Lady

Lady Wingman confirmed what lord Huntley had said; and added, that as her daughters so earnestly desired miss Jessamy would accompany them, she joined her entreaties they might not be refused this satisfaction.

That flutter which had seized on Jenny's heart at the first mention of this tour to Paris was not quite gone off, yet she answered, with her accustomed sprightliness,—that since the ladies did her the honour to invite her, she should not be so much an enemy to herself as to refuse making one in so agreeable a party.

Then turning to mr. Lovegrove, who had not spoke all this while,—‘ I suppose, sir, said she, you are to be one of the company.’—‘ Yes, madam,’ replied he, casting at the same time a kind of reproachful look on lady Speck,—‘ lord Huntley and miss Wingman have been so good to insist on my being so, and I should obey their commands with an infinity of pleasure, if I could flatter myself that my presence was no less acceptable to every one that goes.

‘ I understand you, sir, cried lady Speck, and so I believe do all here;—this is because I did not ask you to go:—indeed I thought—the knowledge I went was sufficient to engage you, by whomsoever the invitation was given.’—‘ You thought right, madam,’ returned he;—yet I should have been glad to have attended you by your own permission.’

‘ Well,—well, said she, since you are so particular, and oblige me to be so too, I will give you your humour for once, and tell you, that without you I should lose half the satisfaction I propose to myself in this excursion.’

‘ This is an assurance, madam, answered he in a transported accent, as much beyond my expectations as my power of ever deserving it, and demands all the acknowledgements of my future life.’—I expected no more, returned she with a smile, than that you will not presume too far upon it.’

Had they been alone, he doubtless would have thrown himself at her feet, and said a thousand fine things to her on the occasion; but the presence of so many witnesses obliged him to defer his raptures till a more convenient opportunity allowed him to indulge them.

To

To prevent him, however, from saying any thing more than she wish'd him to do at that time, she went on, — ' I fancy, cry'd she, that to see the behaviour of ' mr. Jessamy on so unexpected a meeting with his ' mistress will afford a good deal of pleasantry to us ' all.'

' I had the honour, madam, said lord Huntley, to ' have just the same thought with your ladyship; it ' must needs be an admirable scene, if we can prevail ' with miss Jessamy not to apprise her lover of her ' coming.' — Jenny, who was willing to give her friends this satisfaction, and besides was herself extremely delighted with the conceit, laughed heartily, and protested she would observe as much secrecy in this point as his lordship could desire.

After this they fell into some discourse concerning their intended journey, — In what manner they should set out, — what rout they were to take, — by what number of servants it would be necessary they should be attended, — and such like particulars; which having settled, so as to be most for the ease and convenience of the ladies, lord Huntley, who knew Paris perfectly well, farther added, — that it would be highly proper a large Hotel should be hired for their reception on their arrival; — and that as sir Robert Manley was luckily there, he would write to him and beg that favour from him.

This proposal seemed too commodious to be rejected, only lady Speck said, that she fear'd it would destroy their design of surprizing mr. Jessamy; for as Jenny had told of the intimacy that was now grown between him and sir Robert, it could scarce be doubted, but that the latter would inform his new friend what company he might soon expect to see.

' Not if I request him to the contrary, madam, ' reply'd lord Huntley, which I shall do in the strongest terms I am able, as you shall all be witness of, ' continued he, if lady Wingman will favour me with ' her standish, and forgive the liberty I take of writing ' in her presence.

He had no sooner spoke than miss Wingman ran herself into the next room, and fetch'd all the necessary utensils wanting for him to do as he had said, and



he then sat down to a side-table, and wrote in the following manner :

To sir ROBERT MANLEY.

“ Dear sir ROBERT,

“ **W**HAT so much testifies the excess of any passion as the being unable to express it!—It is utterly impossible for me to describe the present transport of my soul; but you will easily conceive it, when I tell you that my so-long-ador’d miss Wingman has at last consented to be mine.

“ Next Tuesday is fix’d upon to make me the happiest of mankind, and it is also agreed upon, that, for the sake of avoiding those troublesome formalities usual on such occasions, we shall that same day set out on our way for France, where, it is no compliment to assure you, my felicity will receive no inconsiderable addition by your being a witness of it.

“ We shall come to Paris accompanied by lady Speck, mr. Lovegrove, and a third person, whose name I am not at liberty to mention; but if you chance to guess at, must insist upon it your not acquainting mr. Jessamy with any part of your conjectures on that head; and, upon second thoughts, it will be still better, if, to prevent all suspicion in him, you keep him in an entire ignorance that any of us are expected.

“ You will, perhaps, laugh at this injunction, but I make it at the request of the ladies, whose desires I know you always take a pleasure in complying with:—I write this in their presence;—they all send their compliments, and, as well as mr. Lovegrove, join with me in intreating a favour of a more serious nature;—which is,—that you will be so good as to employ some person, who knows the town, to hire a handsome hotel, with all other proper accommodations for us, against our arrival, that the fair travellers may meet with no more embarrassments at the end of the journey, than they would do, in stepping into their own country seat.

“ I shall not pretend to direct your choice in the situation of a place,—I am convinced you will fix on

“ such



“ such a one as you shall find most agreeable ;—neither  
 “ will I attempt any apology for the trouble I give  
 “ you,—I am too well acquainted with your heart to  
 “ think I stand in need of any, and hope you are e-  
 “ nough so with mine to assure yourself that I am,

“ With the greatest friendship

“ and esteem,

“ Dear sir Robert,

“ Your most obedient;

“ And most humble servant,

“ HUNTLEY.

P. S. “ I beg leave to recommend as much expe-  
 “ dition in this affair as possible ; for though we pro-  
 “ pose travelling at our ease, we shall certainly, bar-  
 “ ring accidents, be with you in twelve days, at far-  
 “ thest, from the date hereof.”

After having read this to the company, and receiv-  
 ing their approbation of it, he sealed it up, in order to  
 have it carried to the post ; but Jenny, finding they  
 should not reach Paris in less than twelve days, desired  
 that errand might be deferred for a few minutes :—she  
 considered, that before the expiration of the time his  
 lordship mentioned, Jemmy would certainly, not only  
 write to her, but also expect an answer from her ; and  
 thinking herself under an obligation to prevent him  
 from entertaining any uneasy apprehensions on that dis-  
 appointment, begged leave to take up the pen lord  
 Huntley had laid down, and write a few lines to him.

‘ Ah, madam, cry’d lord Huntley, how are we sure  
 ‘ you will not undo all I have been doing, and apprise  
 ‘ mr. Jessamy of our plot upon him.’—No, upon my  
 ‘ honour, replied she laughing ; — but if you will not  
 ‘ take my word, miss Wingman and lady Speck, if  
 ‘ her ladyship will give herself the trouble, shall read  
 ‘ what I write to him.’

She said no more, but sat down to the table, —  
 whence she returned in a very small space of time, and,  
 according to her promise, submitted to miss Wingman’s  
 perusal, what she had been writing :—this little epistle  
 was as follows :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

" Dear JEMMY,

" **Y**OU will wonder at receiving two letters from  
 " me by one post, but I cannot suffer that any pains  
 " you take on my account should be thrown away:—I  
 " have engaged myself to see my charming friend,  
 " miss Wingman, give her hand to lord Huntley, and  
 " also to accompany the happy pair in an excursion  
 " they propose to make immediately after their marriage:—according to the manner in which they have  
 " regulated the route we are to take, it will be ten or  
 " twelve days before we stay at any one place scarce  
 " longer than merely for necessary refreshment; so  
 " that it will be absolutely impossible for me to give  
 " you any exact directions where to send to me during  
 " that time.

" I beg, therefore, that you will not think of writing till you hear from me again, which, you may  
 " be certain, will be as soon as I shall find myself in a  
 " situation to hope an answer from you; till when content yourself with the assurance, that, where-ever I  
 " am, I shall always be,

" With the greatest tenderness,

" My dear Jemmy,

" Your most affectionate,

" And most faithful

" J. JESSAMY.

Miss Wingman, on reading this, declared to her sister and the whole company, that Jenny had betray'd no part of their design; but, on the contrary, had wrote in such a manner as would rather prevent, than raise any suspicion in Mr. Jessamy of the truth, — and, in fine, that she had done no more than what love, — friendship, — politeness, — and even good-nature, demanded from a person in her circumstances.

The remainder of the evening was chiefly taken up with conversation on their intended journey, which afforded an ample field for wit and pleasantry;—they separated not till it was very late, and even lady Wingman and Sir Thomas Welby seemed to have forgot their age and gravity, to participate, in some measure,

in the good-humour and sprightliness of those who are fired with more gay and sanguine expectations.

## C H A P. XXIII.

*Contains, among other particulars of less moment, an incident, which, to every reader of a distinguishing capacity, must certainly appear as extraordinary as it did to our fair heroine herself, or indeed any other in the whole history.*

**A**N excess of satisfaction is sometimes as great an enemy to repose as an excess of grief; so little is human nature able to sustain the violence of any passion:—tho' Jenny went not into bed till almost the time in which she usually arose, yet could she not submit that those pleasing ideas she was now possessed of should be lost in sleep and an inactivity of thought.

Never, indeed, had she experienced a contentment more sincere, — a joy more perfect than that she now felt; — scarce could lord Huntley himself long with greater impatience for the day which was to put him in possession of his wishes, than she did for the arrival of it, as it was the day in which she was to set out on so agreeable a journey, the end of which promised her such an infinity of pleasure in surprising her dear Jemmy with her unexpected presence.

It is certain that so agreeable a tour, taken in the company of persons of such high rank and fortune, and who, she was convinced, had a perfect friendship for her; — the going to a place so famous for its variety of amusements, had something in it extremely ravishing to a young heart, had love been entirely out of the question; — yet, it is no less certain, that this last was the prevailing motive; — the verb by which all desires of her soul was governed, and the rest no more than mere adjectives: — that was the grand structure her expectation formed, the others no more than exterior embellishments.

Tasso, the Italian poet, seems to have, in my opinion, a very just notion of this passion, when he makes Armida, in his celebrated piece of Godfridus, say,

Love, the great aim of all created beings !  
 The source and center of our hopes and fears !  
 From that they flow,—in that they terminate.

I know not whether, in my translation of this passage, I have done the original all the justice it deserves ; but how much soever I have wronged that great author in the expression, am pretty certain that I cannot be mistaken in his meaning.

I believe, however, that very few of my readers, especially those of the softer sex, will stand in need of any comment on the present disposition of Jenny's heart, — their own will sufficiently inform them what her's must feel in the pleasing idea of rushing unexpectedly,----undreamt of,----unthought of, upon a lover so deservedly beloved,---who she knew languished to behold her, and whom she languished to behold.

But notwithstanding all the pretty images she pictured in her mind, on account of this meeting, she suffered not herself to be so much engrossed by them as to neglect the settling her affairs in a proper manner before she went away :-- she sent for mr. Morgan and mr. Ellwood, told them she was going out of town for some time, but without acquainting either of them to what place, and desired that they would give, during her absence, such directions to Jemmy's steward and housekeeper as should be found necessary.

She had also some business to dispatch before her departure, in relation to remittances and accounts, with those gentlemen, who were her own trustees, and this, with some articles, concerning what habits and ornaments she should carry with her, was, as any one may suppose, sufficient employment for the short space of time between her agreeing to go on this journey and her taking it.

There were very few of her acquaintance of whom she took any leave, and none to whom she imparted the rout she was about to pursue,—telling them only that she had engaged herself to take a little ramble into the country with lady Speck and miss Wingman ; though the sole motive she had for preserving such secrecy in this point, was to avoid the railleries she must have expected to be treated with, in case they had known she

was



was going to the place which Jemmy had made choice of for his refuge.

She was returned to her apartment, after having paid the above-mentioned compliment to those, who, by their age or condition, most exacted it from her;—every necessary preparation for her journey was already made, and it was the eve of that important day in which she was to set out, and she had nothing now to do but to indulge contemplations on the happy consequence.

The humour she was in, at present, was so serene and sweet, that one would have thought there was scarce a possibility for any thing to have discomposed her;—yet did the compass of a very few minutes serve to dissipate all the sunny cheerfulness of her mind, and convert the late calm into a sudden tempest of disdain and indignation.

Her footman came hastily into the room, and told her, that a gentleman in a chair begged leave to speak with her, if at home and alone,—‘Who is he, cried she;’ ‘he did not send up his name, replied the fellow; but by the glimpse I had of him between the curtains I think it is Mr.——’

Before he could pronounce the name, Belpine rush’d in;—he had justly doubted of admittance, and resolute to see her, had got out of his chair and followed the servant directly up stairs. —Jenny was astonished, and started at the sight of him; but he prevented her from speaking by a profound reverence, accompanied by these words: ‘I feared, madam, said he, the disadvantageous opinion you have been inspired with of my principles and behaviour, might have excited you to deny me the privilege of saying something to you of much more consequence than the life which has been so cruelly attacked, and so miraculously preserved and, which not to have uttered I should have died a double death.’

‘If you have been attacked,’ replied she, looking on him with the extremest scorn, ‘you justly merited it;—and if preserved, must be as vain as you are base, to imagine it any mark of heaven’s favour to yourself:—but to what pretence, demanded she, to what new artifice, to disturb my quiet, am I indebted for this unexpected, this unwelcome visit?’ Ah,

‘ Ah, madam,’ cried he, casting his eyes round the room to see if the servant was withdrawn, and finding he was so, ‘ great as my offences are, went he on, they rise not to that enormous height as a wish to persevere in them :—I rather come,’ continued he, putting one knee to the ground, ‘ like a repentant sinner, to throw myself at the throne of mercy, and, in this humble posture, confess my crimes, and implore forgiveness.’

‘ There is no need of confession where the facts are fully proved, said she with the same contempt as before ; you have already received the punishment of them from a hand best able to inflict it, and have nothing to fear from my resentment.’

‘ Yet, madam, resumed he, I have much to hope from your forgiveness ;—it is that indeed on which my soul’s eternal peace depends ;—it is not that I dread a second blow from Mr. Jeffamy, should he be inclined to repeat it, even were I certain his better fortune would again give him the advantage over me, and his revengeful sword bathe itself in my heart’s best blood ;—nor is the remembrance of my wounds, nor all the painful circumstances of my tedious cure, that is capable of giving me the least alarm ;—but it is the sad remorse that I have been guilty of any thing to forfeit that portion of esteem I once was favoured with by you, which, like a vulture, preys upon my vitals, and fills me with ideas too terrible for nature to sustain ;—oh, therefore, have compassion,—vouchsafe to say you hate me not ;—that you pardon all I have done, and while I live, I will live only in the study how to deserve such goodness.’

His words,—the seeming contrition in which he uttered them,—his pathetic gestures,—his pale and dejected countenance,—altogether gave him such a pity-moving air as made Jenny lose much of the fierceness she had assumed :—‘ Mr. Jeffamy, said she, is the person whose friendship you have so grossly abused ; whom chiefly you have wronged ; and if he can be brought to forgive the mischief you intended for us both, I shall easily remit that part of it which concerns myself ;

‘ myself ;—therefore pray rise,—I am neither accustomed to receive, nor desire any such submissions.’

‘ No, madam, replied this artful dissembler, I must not quit this humble posture till I have disclosed the whole of my transgression ;—it is not enough that you pardon the faults I have been guilty of, without you vouchsafe also the same grace to the motive which induced me to commit them.’

‘ Motive, cried she hastily, what motive but the most fiend-like disposition could tempt any man to behave as you have done ?—Yes, madam, rejoined he, there is one, which if I were as certain you would absolve as I am that the whole world besides would applaud me for, I should be the most blessed among my sex :—it was love, madam,—love of the most angelic being that Heaven ever formed that has rendered me the criminal I seem.’

Finding she made no answer, as indeed it was impossible she should in the present confusion of her thoughts on so amazing a declaration,—‘ Yes, charming miss Jessamy, went he still on, if I have been base,—ungrateful,—false to the rules of honour and of friendship, it was your lovely self that made me so.’—At these words she cried out,—‘ Me, villain,—me !’—she as yet was able to bring forth no more, and he had the opportunity of replying.

‘ Blame not, said he, the effects of your own beauty, but rather pity a passion which made me deaf to every other consideration :—the more I have forgot the principles to which my youth were bred ;—the more I have erred, the more I have proved the unbounded violence of my love ;—and even those very transgressions have some claim to a grateful recompence from you.’

‘ Monstrous unheard of impudence, returned she, a little recovered from her surprize, had you the vanity and folly to imagine, that if your wicked arts had succeeded to separate me from mr. Jessamy, I should ever have descended to cast my eyes on you ?’

‘ I am a gentleman, madam,’ answered he, rising from the posture he had all this time been in, ‘ of as good a family as mr. Jessamy, and heir to an estate



‘not inferior to his:—I know, indeed, you were designed for him in your childhood, but was ignorant that your partial fancy preferred him to all other men; and therefore hoped’—‘I will hear no more,’ interrupted she, nor suffer in my sight a wretch, whose unexampled baseness renders him even below my anger.’

In speaking this she rang her bell, and the footman immediately coming up—‘Shew this gentleman down,’ said she, and take care he enters here no more.’—On this, Belpine’s late paleness turned to a fiery red:—‘You might have saved yourself this charge, madam,’ cried he, I shall not trouble you with a second visit;—and then flung out of the room without the least mark either of that love, or that humility, which he had, but a few moments before, taken so much pains to counterfeit.

It may, perhaps, seem strange to some people, that a man of so much subtilty as Belpine, should venture to take a step which could reasonably promise nothing less than the mortification he received; but a very small share of observation is sufficient to inform us, that those who are most cunning in deceiving others, are frequently deceived themselves by their own vanity;—as was the case with him.

The civilities which, on Jemmy’s recommendation, he had been treated with by this lady, had made him imagine, on his first acquaintance with her, that she considered him with an extraordinary regard; and that it would not be very difficult to improve that regard into a softer passion, if a favourable opportunity should once offer for his attempting it.

The precariousness of his circumstances, as has already been observed,—the largeness of her fortune,—and, it is probable, some share of inclination to her person, made him presently envy the friend who introduced him; and to endeavour, by all possible methods, how ungenerous and wicked soever, to exclude him from a happiness he wished to be in possession of himself.—The reader has seen how all the plots for this purpose were defeated, and how at last he began to despair of ever being able to succeed.



On, his recovering, however, his former views began to retake possession of his mind ;— he thought things could not be worse with him than they were, and that it would be worth his while to try at least if by one bold push he could not retrieve all.

The report he had caused to be spread concerning the imminent danger he was in from his wound, he found had made Jemmy keep abroad, which was the sole end he proposed by it ;—being also told that Jenny appeared with the same gaiety as ever, he had flatter'd himself with the hopes that absence and this accident had somewhat weaned her affection from its former object, and that she had vanity enough to make her pleased with what he had done, when he should tell her it was occasioned only by the violence of a passion she had inspired him with.

But the contempt with which our heroine treated this declaration, notwithstanding his disappointment and the vexation he conceived at it, forced him to confess that there are women who set no value on such effects of their beauty as they find not accompanied with honour and virtue.

## C H A P. XXIV.

*Gives a very succinct account of the happy accomplishment of an affair, as yet quite untought-of by the reader ; and also of another which has been long ago expected, with other particulars of less consequence.*

JENNY was so much disconcerted at Bel-pine's visit, and the manner in which she had been entertained by him, that it was a considerable time before she was able to bring back her temper to its accustomed serenity ; and when the emotions of anger and disdain were a little subsided, they yet left a certain heaviness upon her spirits, which made her fall into reflexions of the most serious nature.

'How greatly, said she, does the name of love suffer by the unworthiness of its pretended votaries ?  
'How is that passion, which in reality refines the mind, and fills it only with sublime ideas, made the  
'veil

‘ veil to cover the most foul and most detestable designs, and also an excuse for the worst of villainies when perpetrated ?

‘ That woman must certainly be very weak, continued she, who believes herself truly beloved by a man who has recourse to dishonourable means for the accomplishment of his wishes :—if this wretch has in earnest been instigated to act as he has done by any inclination for me, they must be of such a sort as I should blush to inspire ; and I am amazed that my sex should plume themselves, as I have seen some do, in addresses which either have no meaning at all, or such as are not consistent with their virtue or reputation to encourage.’

Her maid now coming in to ask some questions concerning the packing up of her things, she started from the resvery she had been in, and went into her dressing-room to give the necessary directions, where, busying herself in assisting in the execution of her own orders, the pleasing thoughts of her journey drove those of Belpine pretty much out of her head, tho’ not so entirely but that the remembrance of his complicated impudence and hypocrisy would sometimes intervene.

It would be superfluous to trouble the reader with a detail of those avocations in which she passed the remainder of that evening, as nothing happen’d of consequence enough to afford either much delight or improvement.

Ten the next morning being the hour appointed to celebrate the nuptials of lord Huntley and miss Wingman, she arose pretty early,--dressed herself in a rich riding habit, and went to lady Wingman’s in a chair, leaving her maid, who was to attend her in this expedition, to follow with the luggage in a hackney coach.

She found all the company already there, except the reverend divine, who also came in a few minutes after ;—sir Thomas Welby presented the bride, and the ceremony was instantly perform’d ; but the wedded pair had scarce time to receive the benediction of lady Wingman, and the congratulations of those friends who were present, before Mr. Lovegrove took lady Speck by the hand and led her towards Sir Thomas, saying,

saying,—‘ Sir, I must intreat the favour of you to be-  
‘ come a father a second time this morning, and be-  
‘ stow a blessing on me which my whole life shall thank  
‘ you for.’

‘ How is this !’ cried the old baronet very much asto-  
nished, as was every one in the room : —‘ Is it possi-  
‘ ble !’ added the new-married lady Huntley ; sister, are  
‘ you in earnest,—really going to be married to mr.  
‘ Lovegrove ?’

‘ Even so, indeed, my dear sister, reply’d lady Speck  
‘ laughing, I have suffer’d him too long as a lover not  
‘ to make a husband of him at last.’—Then turning to  
lady Wingman, —‘ I beg pardon, madam, continued  
‘ she, for not consulting your ladyship in this affair ;  
‘ but you gave me away once, and now I thought my-  
‘ self at liberty to make my own choice.’

‘ Indeed, daughter, said that lady, it is a choice  
‘ which I should long ago have made for you  
‘ myself, if, as you justly say, I had not lost my right  
‘ of directing your inclinations, by your having been  
‘ married before ;—however, I must do you the justice  
‘ to acknowledge, you exercise not the power you now  
‘ have over your actions but in favour of a gentleman,  
‘ who you were very certain would not only receive  
‘ my approbation, but that of every one who has any  
‘ acquaintance with his merit.

It is not to be doubted but that mr. Lovegrove, who  
is one of the most polite men on earth, return’d this  
compliment from the mother of his mistress in terms  
full of submission and respect.

Lord Huntley, his fair bride, and Jenny, were all  
this while got together, expressing to each other the  
most glad surprise at this event ;—‘ It affords me, said  
‘ the former, a double portion of satisfaction, to see my  
‘ friends happiness go hand in hand with mine ;’—  
which mr. Lovegrove overhearing, just as he had done  
speaking to lady Wingman,—‘ My dear lord, cried he,  
‘ though yesterday I thought myself as far remov’d from  
‘ the completion of my wishes as I now am near, I  
‘ protest to your lordship that I found room in my heart  
‘ to rejoice in your good fortune while despairing of  
‘ my own.’

‘ Ay,



‘ Aye,—aye,—we are all very well pleased, said sir Thomas Welby ; but do not let us make the reverend gentleman wait any longer.—Come, my fair daughter elect, pursued he, taking lady Speck by the hand, put yourself under my jurisdiction for a minute or two, that I may consign my short-liv’d authority to one whose every command, I dare answer, you will find a pleasure in obeying.’

Here the remembrance of some disagreeable passages in her former marriage made lady Speck shudder a little at the thoughts of venturing on a second ;—but she had great experience of mr. Lovegrove’s temper ;—she had promised to be his, both in private and now before all this company,—so threw off all apprehensions, and advanced with her usual sprightliness towards the clergyman, who had his book ready open’d in order to begin the ceremony.

Jenny, who till this morning had never happen’d to be present at these sacred rites, was filled with the most solemn meditations during the performance, especially on the repetition for this second couple ;—she found something so binding in the contract,—so awful in the injunction laid on the married persons by the ordinance, that she was amaz’d to think there could be any one hardy enough to infringe it.

She thought, nevertheless, that the obligation would make a greater impression, and have more weight with those who enter’d into it, if celebrated in a place consecrated to divine Worship, than in one which was usually the scene of feasting,—dancing,—and all kinds of pleasantries, if no worse :— ‘ Marriage, said she within herself, is the great action of our lives,—the hinge on which our happiness or misery, while we have breath, depends ;—the more respect we pay to the institution, the more we shall be careful to observe its rules ; and I can see no justifiable reason for avoiding to solemnize it in the temple of him who first ordain’d, and who alone has power to render it a blessing.’

These reflections frequently recurr’d to her mind, but she had no opportunity at present to proceed in them ;



them ;—mr. Lovegrove, now put in possession of the happiness he so long had fought, was already receiving the felicitations of his friends ; and she, who sincerely rejoiced in his good fortune, would not be slow in testifying the sense she had of it.

Lady Wingman, who was a great lover of old customs, had prepared a rich cake, which sir Thomas Welby immediately broke over the heads of the bridegrooms and their brides ;—the servants were all call'd in to partake of this oblation to Ceres,—after which they went down to see if the equipage was ready for setting out.

The leave this happy company took of lady Wingman, and sir Thomas Welby was very short, as it was now past one o'clock, and they purposed to reach Sittingbourn that evening ;—they went all together in a landeau, chusing to sit close rather than be separated ;—their women attendants, which were also five in number, were cramm'd into lady Speck's old travelling coach, with such things as they knew their ladies would require for present use upon the road, and the more heavy baggage placed behind and before it.

Notwithstanding the privacy with which these weddings had been conducted, a crowd of Mendicants having got a scent of what was doing, had gather'd about the house, and hung upon the doors, and even wheels of the landeau ; but lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove throwing out handfuls of money for them to scramble for, the machine was soon freed from this incumbrance and drove away, escorted by nine servants on horseback, valets included.

#### C H A P. XXV.

*Contains a great deal of business in a very narrow compass.*

**L** I F E affords but few amusements which are more agreeable than travelling, when in a party of select friends who have all of them their hearts at ease, and think of nothing but to divert themselves :—the company, which now set out from lady Wingman's, were in a situation as near to perfect happiness as can be

be tasted on this side eternity ;—Jenny was the only person in a state of expectation, yet was she no less alert and gay than those who had already obtained the ultimate of their desires.

When they had got free from the tumultuous din,—the smoak,—the stench, and the rugged stones of London,—‘ I begin already, said this amiable lady with a smile, to taste the pleasures of this journey ; but you litte suspect how much I have been tempted not to take it ; and when I make you the confidants of an adventure that happened to me last night, you will confess I am a woman of great resolution in keeping the promise I gave of accompanying you.

On this they all cried to her not to keep them in suspense ;—‘ I will not, resumed she,—and hope you will not think me too vain a boaster, when I tell you at once that I have made a new conquest,—have gained a heart all flaming and adoration,—a lover who for my sake has done such things as I believe no man besides himself ever did or would do.’

‘ Nobody doubts the power of your charms, my dear, said lady Speck ; but pray who is this lover ? —for he must be one of whom you are either very fond, or think not worth concealing.’—I dare answer by her looks, subjoined lord Huntley, that he is the latter ;—but pray, madam, let us have his name.

‘ I will not put your lordship nor any of the company, to the trouble of guessing, replied Jenny ; for should you all go to work upon that task, it would certainly last till we came to Paris, and even then be as far from being accomplished as now :—know then that the hero of my true romance,—the man who dies for me, is called—Belpine.’

‘ Belpine ! — Belpine !— impossible, repeated they all several times over ;—He could not sure have the impudence, cried lady Huntley ; but, dear creature, let us have the whole story,—it must, however be very entertaining.’

Jenny then related to them Belpine’s visit, his discourse, and the manner of his behaviour towards her ;

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and this she did with so much wit and spirit as could not but be extremely pleasing to the company ; — they laughed heartily at some passages in the recital ; and their mirth would have been yet more complete, had it not been somewhat checked by their astonishment at his unparalleled impudence and deceit,

‘ For my part, said lord Huntley, tho’ I cannot but own that there was somewhat very extraordinary in the declaration he made to miss Jessamy, yet it is certain that love was the only excuse he could alledge for what he had done ; and I am apt also to think it might be the real motive too, when I remember what mr. Dryden says upon this subject :

That love, all sense of right and wrong confounds,  
Strong love and proud ambition have no bounds.

Mr. Lovegrove replied, that he had the honour to agree with his lordship’s sentiments in this point ; — ‘ But, cried lady Speck, would any man besides himself, after the most plain detection of his villainy, have had the folly and the ignorance to appear before a woman whom he was conscious had so much reason both to detest and scorn him ?

‘ Perhaps, madam, answered he, mr. Belpine had been just reading Shakespear’s Richard the Third, and flattered himself with being able to say like that prince, after courting lady Ann,

Was ever woman in this humour woo’d ?

Was ever woman in this humour won ?

‘ But, continued he, tho’ I can very easily believe that love might be one inducement, yet I can scarce think it was the only one ; — I have been told that mr. Belpine’s circumstances are not in the most prosperous condition ; — he might hope to mend them by miss Jessamy’s fortune ; — and it therefore appears to me extremely probable, that the lady’s money had, at least, as great an influence over him as her eyes.”

From this they fell into a conversation concerning the practice of fortune-hunting, and the stratagems to which men of desperate circumstances and enterprising heads have sometimes recourse, in order to gain their point ; — this was a copious subject, and afforded a great variety



riety of diverting stories, no way to the advantage either of the deceiver or deceived ;—these, with some animadversions of the company upon them, lasted till they arrived at Sittingbourn, where, a servant having been sent before, as indeed the same care was afterwards taken at every stage, they found an elegant entertainment ready prepared against their coming.

The next day they dined at Canterbury, reached Dover the same evening, and the ensuing morning embarked for Calais, to which port a prosperous gale safely conducted them in a few hours.

But there is no necessity to oblige my readers to accompany them through the whole course of their journey to Paris, as no material incident happened in it :—on the very dawning of the day which was to conclude their progress, lord Huntley sent a servant to Paris in order to apprise sir Robert Manley of their approach ; and, as he doubted not but he had provided a place for their reception, to take directions from him where they should alight, and then to return with his answer to a little town within two leagues of the city, where they intended to bait and would stay for him ;—this was easily performed, as the fellow had an excellent horse under him, and set out several hours before the company.

Sir Robert was at dinner with Jemmy and some other gentlemen, when a waiter of the house informed him that there was a man on horseback at the door who intreated to speak with him, and said he came from lord Huntley, on which he arose up immediately and went down.

Jemmy started at the name of lord Huntley, but not being able to assure himself that his ears had not deceived him, ran to the window which commanded the court-yard, where he indeed saw sir Robert talking with a man who he knew by his livery belonged to that nobleman, and seemed as if but just come off a journey ;—this put a sudden thought into his head, which, pleasing as it was, he durst not too much encourage, for fear of a disappointment.

What



‘What, cried he to sir Robert on his returning into the room, is lord Hunley in Paris?’—‘No, replied the other, but very near it,—he will be here by night.’—‘I hear he is married, returned Jemmy strangely agitated; I suppose he brings his lady with him.’—‘I shall soon see that, said sir Robert with a smile;—for I must go to meet him, and shall be glad if you will accompany me.’

‘I am always ready to attend you any where, sir Robert, answered he; but there is but little of a compliment in my doing so at this time; because I cannot help flattering myself with meeting some company to whom I am better known than either to lord Huntley or his lady.’—Sir Robert could not keep himself from laughing at these words, but made no reply, and only said he must send out to hire a chariot immediately; on which a gentleman, who was present, told him he had one at the door that should be perfectly at his service, and as he seemed in haste, and the horses were ready put to, desired he should make use of it.

Sir Robert, for the reasons urged by the gentleman, readily accepted his offer, and after taking leave of the company, and giving some private orders to a servant, went with Jemmy into the chariot, which, though it carried them with all imaginable celerity, seemed yet too slow to the impatience of one of them,

On their arrival they were presently ushered into the room, where our travelers had but just got in before them:—Jemmy flew to Jenny, as if no other person had been present, and throwing himself upon her bosom, cried in the utmost extacy,—‘My dear, dear Jenny, this is an unhopd-for blessing.’—‘My dear Jemmy, returned she, I did not expect to see you till I came to Paris;—but I am fairly caught in my own snare, I thought to have surprised you, and am surprised myself.’

On this he fell a second time upon her neck, and who knows how long, forgetful of every thing but love and joy, he might have continued in that tender situation, if sir Robert Manley, having by this time paid his compliments.

pliments to lord Huntley, mr. Lovegrove, and their ladies, had not advanced to do the same to Jenny, saying,—‘ Dear Jessamy, you must not think as yet of engrossing this lady wholly to yourself.’ These words reminding Jemmy of what was due from him to the rest of the company, which debt he discharged with an air of freedom and politeness too natural to him for his late transports to render less so.

They staid no longer here than was necessary to take some refreshment; and on their arrival at Paris were conducted by sir Robert to the hotel he had hired for them, which they found so handsome and commodious, that they told him he was certainly the best quarter-master in Europe.

After having led them through several apartments, he brought them into a spacious room, where a table (being already set out) was immediately covered, by directions he had before-hand given, with the most exquisite viands of the season.—This was a piece of gallantry which, as well as they knew sir Robert, they had little expected, or even thought on.

Some hours were past in a continual round of wit and pleasantry, intermixed with more serious demonstrations of love, gratitude, and friendship: but the gentlemen remembring how long a journey the ladies had come, thought it would be neither kind nor complaisant to keep them from their beds too late: though it may easily be supposed, that Jemmy took a very reluctant leave of his dear Jenny, and that she also would have willingly spared some time from her repose to have been entertained by a lover, so much and so deservedly beloved.

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## C H A P. XXVI.

*Affords less than perhaps may be expected, yet enough to satisfy a reasonable reader.*

JEMMY's impatience to entertain his fair mistress brought him next morning to visit her in her own apartment; but as their conversation consisted only of such things as the reader is already well acquainted with, it would be needless to repeat it here, so I shall only say, that all which can be conceived of soft and tender, passed between them; — he thought that he could never sufficiently acknowledge the proofs she had given him of her affection; — nor she too much return those she had received from him: — Sweet are the charms of mutual love, when inspired by merit, and accompanied by virtue.

Neither of them, however, suffered themselves to be so far adsorb'd in mutual endearments as to forget the respect owing to their friends; — Jenny had no sooner heard that the company had left their chambers than she proposed joining them; and Jemmy had conceived so high an idea of lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove, on the character given of them by sir Robert Manley, that he rejoiced in this opportunity of entering into a more particular acquaintance with them.

On their going into the dining room they found sir Robert Manley was also come to pay the salutations of the morning, and enquire how they intended to pass the day; to which the ladies reply'd, that they could not pass it more agreeable than in the situation he had provided for them, especially as their women had not yet had time to regulate their things in a proper manner to appear in public, and that if he and mr. Jessamy would give them their company, they should think it no confinement to stay at home: — This being readily agreed to, — feasting, — cards, and conversation engrossed the hours till the night was pretty far advanced; — nor were the gentlemen permitted to depart without a promise of returning the next day.

Lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove had hitherto been entire strangers to Jemmy, but they now found enough in



in his conversation to make them think themselves happy in his acquaintance; and he, as well as sir Robert Manley, was never left out in any party of pleasure formed by them.

In fine, though they continued in different lodgings, they seemed but as one family;—they all went together to visit the churches and convents,—to the opera,—the comedy,—the thuilleries,—the gardens of Luxembourg,—made frequent tours to Marli,—Fountain-bleau,—and Versailles;—not a day passed over without some new amusement, and time slid in a perpetual round of pleasure.

Lord Huntley, who had been several times before at Paris, had a pretty large acquaintance among persons of the best fashion;—these hearing of his marriage and arrival, came to visit him, and likewise introduced their wives and daughters to the ladies, so that there was frequently a very large and brilliant assembly of both sexes at the hotel.

Lady Huntley and lady Speck had their share of admiration among the connoisseurs; but Jenny seemed, in the eyes of most of them, greatly to outshine both her fair companions;—she was toasted and distinguished by the name of ----La Belle Anglaise:----Jemmy was ravished at the fine things he heard said of her; and the more so, as he found she was not the least elated by the praises she received.

This crowd of company,---this incessant hurry of accumulated diversions, however, deprived our lover of the opportunity of entertaining his dear mistress in private, as often as the pleasure he took in her conversation above all others made him wish to do; and it is probable this restriction fill'd him with more impatience than ever he felt before for the consummation of their marriage.

One day, when he found himself alone with her, he fail'd not to press her in the most strong terms he was able on that article; but she reply'd,---that it was then neither a fit time nor place for such a thing, ---and that she wish'd he would not think of it till they should return to England.

‘ Why



‘Why not a fit time and place my dear Jenny, said he, can there be any time or place unfit to solemnize a covenant made so long ago for us by our parents? ---a covenant which I hope the expectations of fulfilling has always been equally agreeable to ourselves; ---remember, continued he, kissing her hand, the transporting promise you made in one of your kind epistles, — that if I could not go to you, ----- you would come to me, and the ambassador’s chaplain should complete my happiness.’

‘When I made that promise, answer’d she, I meant nothing more than to observe it religiously; — and should have contented myself to have lived in a continual banishment with you; — but, my dear Jemmy, the case, thank Heaven, is now quite alter’d, — the circumstances of our affairs have changed their face, — the wretch Belpine is recover’d, — no danger threatens your return, and as we have been here already near two months, it cannot be supposed shall stay much longer; — wherefore then should we hurry thus precipitately into a marriage, while in a foreign land and absent from the greatest part of our friends?’

She had scarce ended these words when lady Huntley came into the room; but on seeing them together was about to retire immediately, crying, she would not interrupt their conversation. — Jenny call’d to her to stay; and Jemmy recollecting how much she had been his friend, in a discourse of the like nature just after her coming from Bath, told her that her ladyship’s presence would be so far from giving any interruption, that it was highly necessary to decide a little dispute between him and miss Jessamy.

‘I guess the subject, answer’d she with a smile; and if I am to be arbiter, shall not fail to give it on your side the question, as I shall then be sure of obliging both parties.’ — ‘You may be mistaken,’ cry’d Jenny, and was going on; but Jemmy, who would have the advantage of being first heard, remonstrated to the fair Judge all the inquietudes of an ever hoping, ever expecting, and never gratified passion, and all the anxieties attending impatience and suspense; — the manner

manner in which he express'd himself had so much of the humorous in it, mix'd with the pathetic, as made both the ladies laugh heartily : — Jenny, in her turn, repeated the reasons she had for denying her lover's request, in terms no less sprightly ; — after which, —

‘ Well, said lady Huntley, this is a moot point, and I must even leave it where I found it, and the room, that you may agree upon it between yourselves.’

She was going to do as she said, and had turned away for that purpose ; — ‘ Hold, lady Huntley, cried Jenny, you must not depart till I have convinced you of my generosity to this unreasonable man : — here, continued she to Jemmy, is my hand, which I faithfully promise to give you before a Parson as soon as we arrive at London, and things can be got ready for the ceremony : — Jemmy receiv'd and kiss'd it with the greatest satisfaction.

‘ This is as it should be, said lady Huntley ; and to heighten your contentment, mr. Jessamy, I can tell you that I believe you will very shortly have an opportunity to demand the performance of this promise ; — for my part I begin to be weary of Paris ; — mr. Lovegrove, I can perceive, is so too ; and if we can persuade lady Speck to be of the same opinion, I know I can easily bring my lord into it.’

She was going on when lord Huntley came in with a letter in his hand ; — ‘ Oh, my dear, cried he, I have been looking for you through all the rooms ; — I have just receiv'd a letter from sir Thomas Welby. — ‘ I hope mamma is well, cried she hastily, — and no ill accident has happen'd, — Not in the least, return'd he, but far on the contrary ; — sir Thomas only writes to let you know that his son is married, and will very shortly bring his bride to visit us in Paris.’

‘ I am astonish'd, cried lady Huntley : — mr. Welby married ! — I do not understand how such a thing can be ; — he took leave of mamma and I just after my coming from Bath, and told us he was to set out on his travels next day, and I thought that he was gone ; — sure he must either have made a very short tour, or have stopp'd in his progress and have pick'd up a wife by the way.’

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‘ I know nothing of the particulars, resumed his lordship; — but you shall hear what sir Thomas says on the occasion :’ — with these words he look’d over the letter, — and singling out that part of it which he thought would most satisfy her curiosity, read as follows :

“ I thought him too young to marry ; but found his inclinations so much divided between love and travelling, that the latter would have afforded him neither pleasure nor improvement without the gratification of the former, so consented to both ; — he was marry’d last week, and two days ago set out on his rambles, and has taken his bride with him : — as they intend to stay some time at Paris, in their way to Italy and other parts, he will have the honour to present her to the ladies, and I flatter myself she will appear not unworthy of their countenance and friendship.”

‘ Well, this is strange, said she, perceiving he had done ; but does not mention to whom he is marry’d.’ — ‘ Not a syllable, reply’d he ; but we shall soon know more of the matter ; — for I find by the date of this letter, which I did not observe before, that it has been retarded, by some accident or another, in the post ; and the young gentleman, by the time mention’d of his leaving London, must infallibly be already arrived, or very near.’

These words had but just escaped his lips, when a servant came hastily into the room and said, that a gentleman, who call’d himself Welby, was in the great saloon with lady Speck and mr. Lovegrove, and they sent him to let his lordship know it.

On this lord and lady Huntley went to receive their new guest ; but Jemmy and Jenny, having no acquaintance with him, thought themselves excused from paying their compliments to him at this time.

## C H A P. XXVII.

*Contains a very remarkable occurrence.*

**M**R. Welby made his first visit very short ; but was not suffer’d to depart without engaging himself to come again the next day and bring his lady with him,



whom they were not a little impatient to see, as sir Thomas had mentioned her so handsomly in his letter.

The daughters of lady Wingman had a sincere regard for this young gentleman, not only as he was the son of sir Thomas Welby, but also on the score of his own good qualities; and willing to testify it by all the marks in their power, gave orders to those who had the management of their household affairs, to omit nothing proper for the entertainment of the new wedded pair.

Three was the appointed hour, and had not elapsed as many minutes when their expected guest appeared;—the bride seemed very lovely in the eyes of lord Huntley, Jammy, and sir Robert Manley; but there was something in her, which much more than her beauty, attracted those of mr Lovegrove and the three ladies, —each of these was perfectly convinced that they had been acquainted with her face, though when or where none of them could recollect;—but when she spoke, in returning the salutations they severally gave her, her voice immediately eased them of the suspense they had been in, and presented her to their remembrance for the fair stranger whom accident and distress had brought into their company, at the village where they had been obliged to lie on their return from Bath.

Great was their astonishment, nor was that of mrs. Welby less; but as they had too much politeness to betray any part of theirs, or take the least notice they had ever seen her before, so she had too much generosity not to avow her remembrance of them.

‘It was with a great deal of pleasure I came, said mrs. Welby, to pay my respects to the friends of mr. Welby; but how infinitely would that pleasure have been enhanced, had it been possible for me to have foreseen I should have met the only persons to whom I have been so highly obliged in the extremest exigence in my life;’—then perceiving they made no other reply, as indeed they were not yet enough recover’d from their surprize to do it:—‘You may not, perhaps, resumed she, be able presently to distinguish in the wife of mr. Welby the once forlorn, the distress’d fugitive;—but this will be to me a perpetual memento of your goodness.’

In



In speaking these last words she took out of her pocket the snuff-box she had exposed to sale at the Inn, and which Mr. Lovegrove had bought, and return'd to her with so much gallantry ; — on sight of it, — ‘ It will be a lasting honour to me, madam, said that gentleman, that you still retain a trifle no otherwise worthy your acceptance than by being before in your possession.’

The two sisters now first acknowledged their remembrance of her, with many compliments on the change of her condition ; and Jenny, who had been impatient to do so, congratulated her good fortune with the extreme warmth : — those of the company who were not in the secret, were surpris'd at these salutations ; but Mr. Welby most of all, which his fair wife perceiving, — ‘ You have introduced me, said she, to persons whom I little hoped to have met at Paris, but would have gone much farther to have seen ; — I shall at leisure make you acquainted with the obligations I have to them.’

Dinner being that instant served up broke off all farther speech upon this head ; but the ladies were all the time in the utmost impatience to know the bottom of an affair which at present seem'd so mysterious to them, and as soon as the cloth was removed, left the gentlemen to their Burgundy and drew Mrs. Welby into another room, not doubting but she would readily satisfy their curiosity, which she accordingly did in the following manner :

*The sequel of the fair stranger's adventures.*

“ **W**HAT you desire of me, said she, is so little worthy your attention, that I shall be as brief as possible in the repetition ; — you already know the catastrophe of my fate in seeing me the wife of the most generous man on earth ; — as for the accidents that made me so, they will only serve to shew that when we think ourselves farthest removed from happiness we are often nearest to it.

“ You may remember, ladies, that I told you my design was to cross the sea from Bristol to Cork ; — I got safe, without the least molestation to the end of my journey : but was fortunately prevented from embarking on my voyage by this means :

“ I had scarce time to enquire if any vessel was bound  
“ for my intended port, when that aunt to whom I was  
“ going landed from thence; — she came into the same  
“ inn where I was, — we were mutually astonish’d at  
“ the sight of each other; but I soon related to her the  
“ whole of my unlucky story, and the disappointment it  
“ was to me to see her come to England in the very  
“ moment I was flying for refuge to her in Ireland, at  
“ which she seem’d equally surprized and troubled.

“ At first she highly blamed me for resisting so foolishly  
“ my good fortune, as she term’d it; but, perceiving  
“ I burst into tears at her reproaches, became more gentle: — she told me, however, that it would be quite  
“ improper for me to go to her house while she was out  
“ of it, as my uncle had never seen me, and I was an  
“ entire stranger to every one in the family;” — ‘ But,  
“ said she, you shall go back to London with me, — I  
“ shall see your father soon after I come there, — will  
“ talk to him concerning you, and doubt not but I shall  
“ be able to mitigate matters between you, so as you may  
“ go home again without being forced to marry against  
“ your inclinations.’

“ This did not very well please me, as I knew my  
“ father’s positive temper, and fear’d the success of her  
“ negotiation in this point; however, as I had no other  
“ course to take, I was obliged to submit to her directions,  
“ and the next day we set out together in the  
“ stage-coach for London.

“ On our arrival we were lodged at the house of an  
“ eminent banker in the city, who had before been apprised  
“ of my aunt’s coming by letters for that purpose: — she told him nothing more of me than that I  
“ was her niece, nor did he think it his business to ask  
“ any questions, but treated me with a great deal of  
“ civility and respect; and, as I was a perfect stranger  
“ in that part of the town, I thought myself as secure  
“ there as if I had been in Ireland.

“ The next day my aunt went to visit my father; but  
“ he happen’d to be gone out of town for a few days,  
“ and she found only my sister, who on her making some  
“ enquiry for me, told her — that I was an impudent  
“ slut, — that after having promised to marry a gentleman

“ man of great worth and fortune, and every thing being  
 “ prepared for the ceremony, I had run away in a most  
 “ scandalous manner on the very day it was to have been  
 “ perform’d ; — that no body knew what was become of  
 “ me ; — that I had almost broke my father’s heart, and  
 “ was a disgrace to all that belong’d to me.

“ As I knew the bitterness of my sister’s nature, and  
 “ the small portion of good-will she always had for  
 “ me, I was not at all surprized when my aunt return’d  
 “ with this intelligence ; — I was only sorry my father  
 “ was not at home, that I might have known in what  
 “ manner he resented my behaviour ; for as I had never  
 “ failed in the dutious love of a child to a parent, the  
 “ thoughts of having been compell’d to incur his dis-  
 “ pleasure gave me the most severe affliction and remorse.

“ While I was in this suspense an accident befel me,  
 “ which, tho’ I thought little of at that time, proved  
 “ afterwards to be of the greatest importance of my  
 “ whole life.

“ My aunt was gone one day to her lawyer, on the  
 “ business which had brought her to England, — I was  
 “ sitting reading at a window, when a servant at the  
 “ banker’s shew’d a gentleman into the room, and de-  
 “ sired him to sit down, saying he expected his master  
 “ home in a few minutes ; — I rose from my seat at the  
 “ entrance of this stranger, but was pretty much sur-  
 “ prized when I presently recollected he was the person  
 “ who had follow’d me from church one Sunday to my  
 “ father’s door : — you may remember, ladies, continued  
 “ she, that I mention’d this incident to you on account  
 “ of my sister’s reproaching me with it afterwards.”

“ I remember it perfectly well, said lady Speck ; and I  
 “ dare answer that no part of your story was lost on any  
 “ of us : — but pray proceed ; for I already begin to  
 “ trace the oddness of this event.” — Mrs. Welby smiled  
 and went on :

“ I would have left the room, resumed she, but an  
 “ unaccountable something rivetted my feet ; — the gen-  
 “ tleman at first seem’d in more confusion than myself,  
 “ but he soon recover’d from it ; and seeing I had a  
 “ book in my hand approach’d me, and with an air the  
 “ most gay, yet respectful, — ‘ May I presume, madam,



“ said he, to ask what author is so happy as to engage  
 “ your contemplations?” — “ I reply’d, it was only a  
 “ novel, entitled, Love and duty reconciled: — this,  
 “ he has since told me, he look’d upon as a prosperous  
 “ omen to his hopes; — but he had no opportunity then  
 “ to say any thing farther, — the banker came that instant  
 “ in, — begg’d his pardon for having made him wait, and  
 “ told him, that as they should now be too late for the  
 “ office, if he would accept of a bad dinner with him  
 “ they would go together in the afternoon; — the gen-  
 “ tleman very readily agreed; — while they were talk-  
 “ ing my aunt came in, and the cloth being already  
 “ spread we all sat down to table.

“ My aunt was so much disconcerted that she could  
 “ scarce eat, which the banker taking notice of, she burst  
 “ into the most vehement exclamations against her law-  
 “ yer; — the young gentleman, who by this time had  
 “ found how nearly she was related to me, ask’d her  
 “ many questions concerning the behaviour of the person  
 “ she complain’d of, and she then gave him a long detail  
 “ of particulars, which, as they are no way material to  
 “ my story, I shall not trouble you with a repetition of:  
 “ and shall only tell you, that she concluded with say-  
 “ ing, that mr. Dally was one of the most base as well as  
 “ most unmannerly men in the world.” — ‘ Mr. Dally,  
 “ cry’d he, I know him well, my father has been long  
 “ his client, and I believe is the best friend he has: — if  
 “ you will permit me to wait on you to him, I dare almost  
 “ promise to engage him to do you justice.’ — “ She was  
 “ quite transported at this offer and joyfully accepted it,  
 “ on which he assured her he would come the next morn-  
 “ ing and attend her to mr. Dally’s chambers: there  
 “ pass’d no more, soon after dinner he went out with the  
 “ banker on the business they had been talking of, which  
 “ I afterwards found was to the million bank, where he  
 “ had some money left him on the death of a relation.

“ On the banker’s return my aunt could not forbear  
 “ asking the name of the gentleman who had been so  
 “ obliging to her, to which he reply’d, that he was the  
 “ only son of sir Thomas Welby, and then ran into great  
 “ encomiums both on the father and the son, tho’ no  
 “ more than what I have since experienced they justly  
 “ merit:



“ merit: — I was, however, very much confounded;  
 “ for I must now acquaint you, ladies, that sir Thomas  
 “ Welby is the person, the history of whose liking of me  
 “ I have already told you, since it was he I took so much  
 “ pains to fly.

“ Here they all cry'd out in the utmost amazement,  
 “ almost at the same time,” — ‘ What, madam, sir  
 ‘ Thomas Welby, my guardian, said lady Huntley;  
 ‘ was it to him you should have been marry'd!

“ The same, indeed, reply'd she; nor is it strange  
 “ you should be ignorant such a thing was in agita-  
 “ tion; for even had it been effected it was to have  
 “ been kept a secret from his own family till I had been  
 “ carried home and set at the head of it; but I shall  
 “ now proceed to the more agreeable part of my nar-  
 “ rative; — Mr. Welby came according to his promise,  
 “ and usher'd my aunt to the lawyer's; — she return'd  
 “ about noon in very high spirits; — told me that Mr.  
 “ Welby's presence, and what he said, had wrought a  
 “ wonderful effect; — that the lawyer was now as ci-  
 “ vil as before he had been rude; and that her business  
 “ would be dispatch'd in a very short time:” — ‘ But,  
 ‘ my dear niece, said she, I have something better than all  
 ‘ this to inform you of; — this fine young gentleman  
 ‘ is violently in love with you; — he has made me the  
 ‘ confidant of his passion, and engaged my interest. —  
 ‘ What now, pursued she, seeing me look a little grave,  
 ‘ surely you will not withstand your fortune a second  
 ‘ time?’ — “ I reply'd, that I could see little advan-  
 “ tage in that gentleman's affections, since it was im-  
 “ possible his father would ever give a sanction to it.”  
 — ‘ Pish, — what then, resumed she; when once  
 ‘ you are marry'd to him the father will easily be  
 ‘ brought to forgive what cannot be recall'd.’ — “ I  
 “ urged the vanity of hoping a father would ever for-  
 “ give a son for marrying the woman he had a mind to  
 “ himself; but she made slight of all I said, and then  
 “ told me, that as it was not proper the banker should  
 “ as yet be let into the secret, she had promised to give  
 “ Mr. Welby a meeting that afternoon, and to bring  
 “ me with her:” — ‘ Neither your pride nor modesty,  
 ‘ continued she, has any cause to be alarm'd, for I

“ shall pretend it is all my doing, and that you knew  
 “ nothing of seeing him.”

“ I was very averſe to this meeting ; but ſhe was poſi-  
 “ tive, and I was fearful of diſobliging her, as I had no  
 “ other friend but herſelf whom I could rely upon for  
 “ making my peace with my father : — in fine, we  
 “ went, Drapers-garden was the place of rendezvous ;  
 “ Mr. Welby was there before us, — he affected, as had  
 “ been contrived between my aunt and him, to have  
 “ come there by chance, which a little ſaved my  
 “ bluſhes ; — after walking a turn or two, talking on  
 “ ordinary matters, he propoſed going to Ranelagh ; —  
 “ my aunt reply’d, that ſhe had never ſeen the place,  
 “ and could not do it in better company ; — it did not  
 “ become me to oppoſe what ſhe had agreed to, — a  
 “ coach waited which carried us directly thither ; — it  
 “ was very early in the evening and the company were  
 “ not yet come, ſo we had the gardens to ourſelves : —  
 “ my aunt was ſo much in his intereſt, or rather mine,  
 “ that ſhe gave him all the opportunities the place  
 “ would admit of to declare his paſſion to me, which  
 “ he did in the moſt pathetic terms, while ſhe pretended  
 “ to amuſe herſelf with looking on the ſtory of Pamela,  
 “ painted on the walls : — I was far from giving any  
 “ encouragement to what he ſaid, yet, by an irrefiſt-  
 “ able impulſe, was prevented from treating it with that  
 “ ſeverity I wiſh’d to have done.

“ But why ſhould I detain your attention by parti-  
 “ culars ? — this meeting was productive of a ſecond,  
 “ — that of a third, — and ſo on, for a ſucceſſion of  
 “ ſeveral days ; till at laſt, finding in myſelf an incli-  
 “ nation to be too much pleaſed with his addreſſes, and  
 “ dreading the conſequence, I reſolved to put an end to  
 “ them.

“ I took the firſt opportunity of being alone with  
 “ him to tell him that I had conſider’d of the honour  
 “ he did me, and found it impoſſible for me to accept  
 “ the hand he offer’d, ſo intreated him to withdraw his  
 “ affection, if in reality he had ſo much for me as he  
 “ pretended, and talk to me no more upon that ſubject ;  
 “ — the manner in which I ſpoke convincing him I  
 “ was in earneſt, he ſeem’d much amazed, — made  
 “ ſuch

"such replies as might be expected from a lover, accused destiny, and the influence of ill stars, — complain'd of his want of power to please me, and laid the blame of my refusal on my aversion to his person; — this struck me, and in the sincerity of my soul," — 'No, sir, said I, wrong not your own merits, or my just sense of them, so far as to harbour such a thought: — I blush not to confess, that of all mankind you have the preference in my heart; — but what avails it when there is a bar between us, which all the love in the world, on both sides, would never be able to surmount?' — 'Ah, madam, cried he hastily, what bar?' — "I then told him that I was determined never to marry without the consent of parents:" — 'If that be all, rejoined he briskly, I do not despair but to be able to make such proposals to your father as he will not disdain to listen to.' — 'However that may be, answer'd I, you, sir, have a father too, — it is his consent I chiefly mean, and without his permission of the continuance of your addresses, be assured I will not receive them.'

"He now seem'd much disconcerted, — sigh'd, and was silent for several minutes," — 'Well, madam, said he, you shall be obey'd; — my thoughts were lately bent on travelling, — every thing was ready for my design; but on the sight of you love laid a sudden embargo on my feet, and I then made a thousand excuses to my father for deferring my voyage; but I will now confess to him the whole truth, and implore his sanction to my vows; — he is generous, — I am his only son, — he loves me, and I may perhaps succeed; — I will, at least, make trial of my fate, and to-morrow you will see me either the most happy or the most miserable of men.'

"He parted from me with great emotions, nor was I less disquieted; but I acquainted not my aunt with this conversation, knowing she would severely chide me, and think, as indeed I did myself, that the step I had taken would entirely overthrow what she had taken so much pains to promote: — I neither saw nor heard any thing of my lover all the next day, and this confirm'd me in what before I scarce doubted; —  
 " I



“ I pass’d the night in anxieties enough ; but the next  
 “ morning found my condition revers’d, in a manner  
 “ which I could never have imagin’d ; — soon after  
 “ breakfast my father’s footman came in a great hurry  
 “ to acquaint me that my father commanded me to  
 “ return home immediately ; — I was in a strange sur-  
 “ prise ; — I knew not before he was in town, — could  
 “ not guess by what means he was directed where to  
 “ find me, and was in the utmost dilemma whether I  
 “ ought to rejoice or tremble at being sent for ; — I  
 “ would fain have staid for my aunt who was just gone  
 “ out, to have taken her with me ; but the fellow told  
 “ me that his orders were to bring me that instant, so  
 “ I said no more but obey’d the summons.

“ On my arrival my father met me in the parlour, —  
 “ I threw myself at his feet and begg’d forgiveness ;” —  
 “ Rise, my child, said he, embracing me, — I do for-  
 “ give you ; — the hand of Heaven has been in what  
 “ you have done, and directed all your steps ; — your  
 “ fears of a forced marriage are now over, — sir Tho-  
 “ mas has resign’d his claim to one fitter for your years ;  
 “ they are both here, and wait your presence to ratify  
 “ the contract I have already made for you.’

“ Judge, ladies, what I felt ; — I was no longer at  
 “ a loss for the happy event ; the sudden surcharge of  
 “ unexpected joy rushing in at once upon me was  
 “ more than I could well support ; — I was almost  
 “ fainting when my father led me into the next room,  
 “ where sat sir Thomas Welby and his son ; the latter,  
 “ as I have since heard, was in much the same condi-  
 “ tion as myself ; but the former pitying my confusion,  
 “ took me by the hand with these words, deliver’d in  
 “ the most sprightly tone, — ‘ Come, daughter,  
 “ said he, for such you now are, your father has given  
 “ you to me, and the least I can do, to atone for the  
 “ troubles I have occasion’d you, is to give my son to  
 “ you, and hope you will not refuse to accept the pre-  
 “ sent ;’ — “ as he spoke this he join’d my hand with his  
 “ son’s, — and added,” — ‘ Take each other, and be  
 “ as happy as love and the mutual consent of parents  
 “ can make you :’ — “ Neither of us could speak for  
 “ some time ; but when we had recover’d ourselves  
 “ enough



“ enough to do so, the acknowledgments we made  
 “ were very well received by both the old gentlemen.

“ As there wanted but little preparations for a marriage so much desired on all sides, the ceremony was  
 “ perform’d in three days after; and I have now nothing more to acquaint you with, but that mr.  
 “ Welby still persisting in his desire of seeing foreign  
 “ parts, I have gladly consented to accompany him  
 “ in his travels.”

## C H A P. XXVIII.

*Concludes this history, and all the author thinks fit, at present, to intrude upon the public.*

AFTER Mrs. Welby had finish’d the account of her adventures, and received the praises due to her conduct thro’ the whole of them, they all return’d into the dining-room; where, finding mr. Welby had entertain’d the gentlemen in much the same manner as his wife had done the ladies, the conversation on this subject became general; and when they discoursed more at large on the odd circumstances of what they had heard related, and consider’d the generosity of sir Thomas Welby, — the disinterested passion of his son, and the extraordinary discretion of the young lady, they were at a loss to say which of the three characters had the greatest claim to admiration.

These new comers now found themselves so happy in the society of those they were among, that, till the expiration of full three weeks, they seem’d not to remember they had any farther course to steer; nor did their friends think it too great an act of complaisance either to revisit with them all the places they had been at before, or to stay in Paris so much longer than they had intended, or would have done, but for so agreeable an addition to their company.

At length, however, they were obliged to separate, — mr. Welby and his fair wife began their progress towards the Alps, in order to pass into Italy; and the other gentlemen and ladies, now equally impatient to be at home as they had been to go abroad, set out in a few days after on their return to England, where they happily

pily arrived without meeting any accidents to retard their journey.

This agreeable company now ceased to be of one family, — lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove took their ladies home, and sir Robert Manley and our lovers returned to their respective habitations, to receive the visits of those friends and acquaintance from whom they had so long been absent ; — Jemmy, however, was seldom from his dear Jenny, and had now a full opportunity to remind her of the promise she had made him ; and that amiable lady, thinking they had sufficiently proved the love and sincerity of each other, no longer sought excuses to delay what he desired.

But before we bring them to the altar, it may not be improper to acquaint the reader with something concerning Belpine, as he was the person who had taken so much pains to hinder their felicity from being ever completed, and has, on that score, made too considerable a figure in this history to be wholly dropp'd.

The expences of his way of living having by much exceeded the slender income of his patrimony, he found himself obliged to mortgage, for near half the value, in order to discharge several debts, which had begun to be very troublesome to him, and had exposed him to repeated insults.

But this was a trifling misfortune, when compared to that which soon ensued : — lady Hardy had declared herself pregnant, which so enraged him, that not remembering the advice given him by the old housekeeper, he plainly accused his aunt of incontinency, and for proofs of his allegations against her, related all the good woman had reveal'd to him, and also all he knew concerning the passion she pretended to have felt for Jemmy.

But he was presently convinced of the error he had been guilty of in this rash behaviour : — sir Thomas, either not believing, or not seeming to do so, treated all he said as a base forgery, and flew into the extreamest rage, — forbid him coming any more into his presence, or even to think of him as an uncle, and at the same time bound himself by the most solemn imprecation, that whether the child his lady went with should live or die, to take such measures as should infallibly prevent the villain,

villain, who had so infamously traduced her, from ever inheriting any part of his estate.

Thus undone in all his future expectations, and reduced to an incapacity of living in a fashion equal to his birth, and much more to that of his ambition, it is not to be doubted but that he suffered all that despair and enervate rage could inflict upon him.

In this condition, the only method his invention could supply him with to avoid poverty, and its sure attendant, the contempt of the world, was to sell an estate, which he found by much too inconsiderable for his support, and get into the army; — he accordingly did so, paid off the mortgage upon it, and with the remainder of the money he received for the purchase bought a captain of foot's commission in a marching regiment, which to add to his mortification, was presently after ordered to one of the plantations in the West-Indies, and he was obliged to leave England with all its dear delights, and embark for the Creolian coast some weeks before our lovers and their friends returned from France, — a punishment which his own pride and luxury had brought upon him, and was justly due to the complicated vices of so bad a heart.

Jemmy was little affected at this piece of intelligence; but Jenny, who thought him capable of every thing that was base and wicked, and had not been altogether free from apprehensions of some mischief which his revenge and malice might possibly be productive of, could not forbear rejoicing, in spite of all the good-nature she was endow'd with, that a man of such dangerous propensities was so far removed.

Among other occurrences of less importance to her peace than this of Belpine, she was also inform'd that Mrs. Marlove, whom if the reader has forgot, he may find mention'd the beginning of this work, was now separated from her husband, having first made him, by her over delicacy and capricious temper, heartily weary of a state he had enter'd into with transport and a prospect of a lasting happiness. — She heard also that the marriage of Rodophil's mistress with the captain having been discover'd, her father obliged them to live together; but that they agreed so ill that the contentions between them made much diversion for their neighbours; — and that



that miss Chit had quarrel'd with her great friend lady Fisk, on the score of a young nobleman who had made his addressees to both, and equally despised both, tho' neither could suffer herself to believe so; and that the animosity of these fair rivals was arrived to such a height, that they made no scruple of betraying to the world all the failings each had been guilty of, and of which they had been mutually the confidants.

But our amiable Jenny had now done enquiring into the follies and mistakes of her sex, as she had seen enough of both to know how to avoid them; and all the preparations for giving herself to Jemmy being now ready, their marriage was solemnized, by her own desire, in the Abbey church of Westminster, in the presence of lord Huntley, mr. Lovegrove and their ladies, sir Robert Manley, and some other friends, among whom mr. Ellwood and mr. Morgan were not left out.

It would be needless to repeat the satisfaction which this happy catastrophe gave to every one who took any interest in the welfare of our accomplish'd lovers, or the sincere congratulations the new united pair received upon it; — I shall therefore leave them, after the hurry of feasting and visiting was over, to enjoy, in calm retirement, the more pure and lasting sweets of a well govern'd and perfect tenderness.

*F I N I S.*

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